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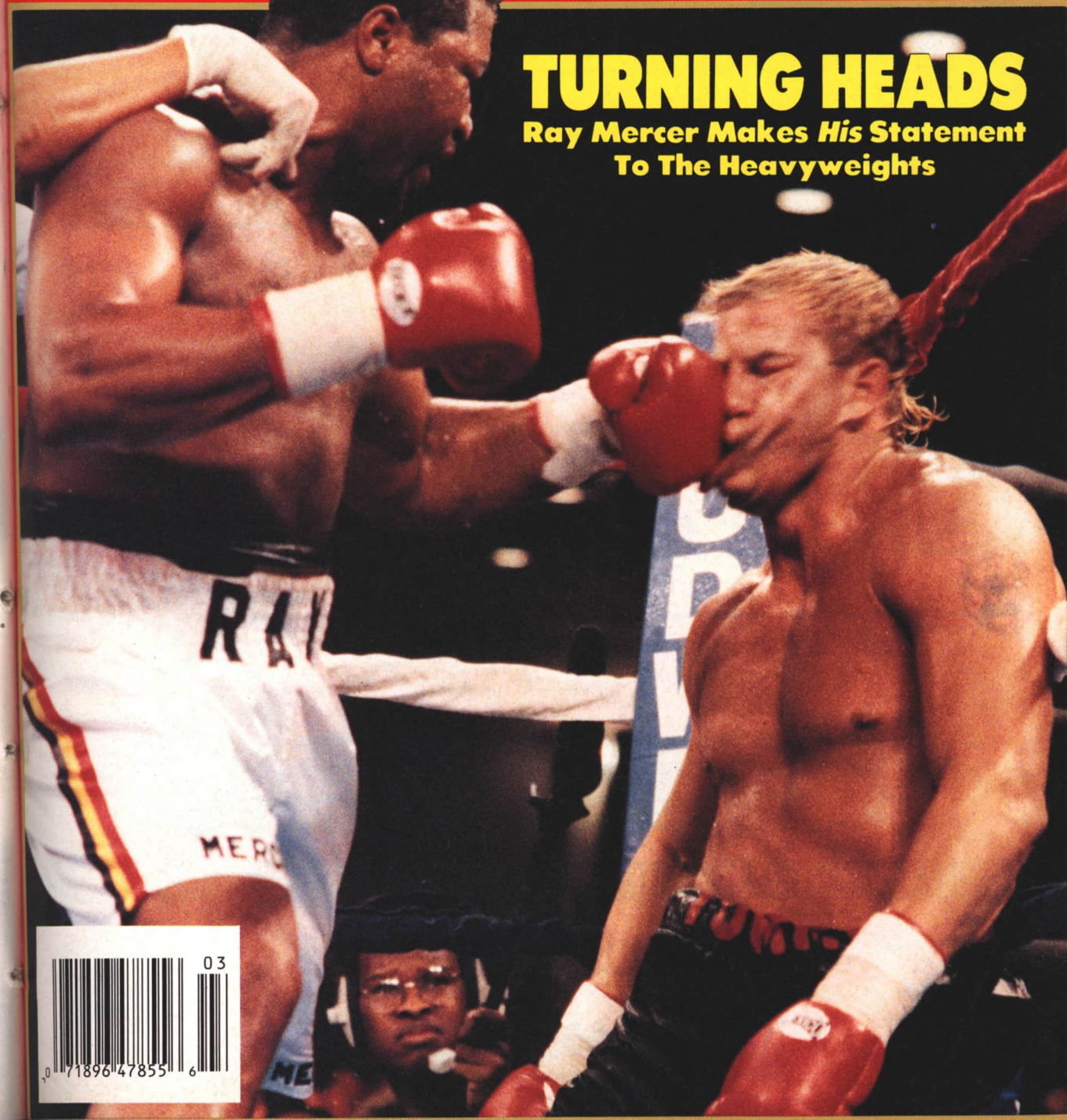

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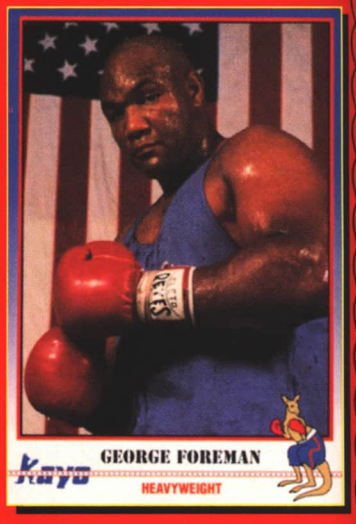


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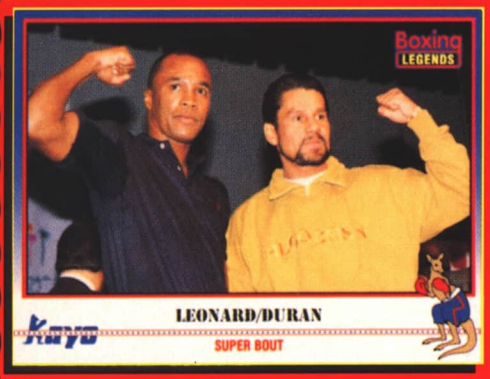


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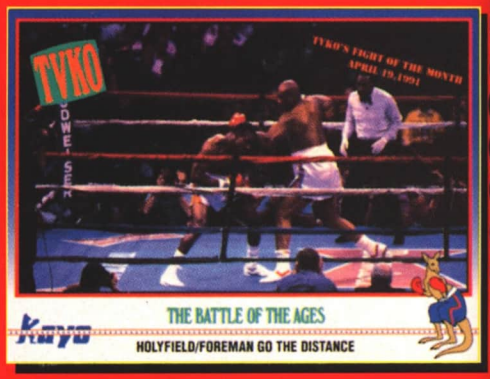


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# Contents

page 22

## Features


**18** SUPERFANS: ALWAYS IN THEIR FIGHTERS' CORNERS
*by Dan Hirshberg*

**22** *THE RING'S* NEW YEAR'S WISH
The 10 Best Matchups Of 1992
*by Steve Farhood*

**26** *THE RING'S* EXCLUSIVE PHOTO QUIZ
Test Your Boxing IQ

**28** LOU NOVA:
THE HEAVYWEIGHT WHO HAD GREATNESS BEATEN OUT OF HIM
*by Earl Gustkey*

**32** THE 1980 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM
Great Expectations . . . Greater Disappointments
*by Joseph C. Tintle*

**36** FLIPPING OUT:
THE BOXING CARD EXPLOSION
*by Jim Trunzo*

**42** TURNING HEADS:
RAY MERCER MAKES *HIS* STATEMENT TO THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
*by Jeff Ryan*

**46** *THE RING* VISITS WITH RODRIGO VALDES
The Middleweight Who Almost Had It All
*by James Dusgate*


## Color Centerfold


**40** JACK DEMPSEY *by Kevin Rekis*


## Ringside Reports And Analyses


**52** FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS


## Ratings

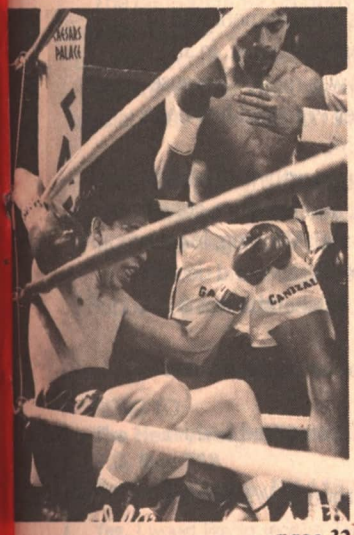

**10** THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS & RECORDS
**68** WBC, WBA, & IBF RATINGS


## Departments


**4** RINGSIDE
**6** COME OUT WRITING
**8** ROUND ONE
**14** RYAN OUT LOUD *by Jeff Ryan*
**16** NEW FACES: Junior Featherweight Rudy Zavala
**20** BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS: Joe Louis vs. Muhammad Ali
**48** TIME CAPSULES
**50** WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS
**74** THE RING CLASSIC: CASSIUS CLAY: BONUS BOY OF BOXING *by Lew Eskin*
**78** LOOKING AHEAD



March 1992

page 32

page 46

*Cover Photo By Al Bello*
*Centerfold By Kevin Rekis*

# Ringside

Two recent world title fights, one watched by the world, the other watched by almost no one, illustrated why one of boxing's rules must be changed.

According to the fight game's three major sanctioning bodies, a fighter must be rated in the top 10 to qualify for a world title fight. On November 23 in Atlanta, undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield faced Bert Cooper, a late substitute for Francesco Damiani. Cooper wasn't rated in the top 10 of the WBA, WBC, or IBF, but the WBA and IBF waived the top 10 rule and sanctioned the fight. (The WBC, on the other hand, held firm. Had Cooper won, the WBC title would have been declared vacant.)

On November 15 in Roanoke, Virginia, IBF cruiserweight champion James Warring made a voluntary defense against Cleveland's Donnell Wingfield. In the first 10 months of the year, Wingfield had been unranked; in November, he arrived at number 10. What came first, the title fight opportunity or the rating? The IBF says the rating, but given Wingfield's poor credentials, I can't help but be skeptical.

When Cooper was chosen to replace Damiani, only Don King and Mike Tyson complained that Holyfield was defending against an unranked fighter. At least Cooper was familiar, and he had won four in a row, including a kayo of the streaking Joe Hipp. Moreover, given the time constraints, what was promoter Dan Duva supposed to do? He could hardly afford to be picky.

The Warring-Wingfield situation wasn't all that different, but . . .

IBF ratings chairman Doug Beavers told me that Wingfield's management had requested a top 10-rating. (Larry Weiser, Wingfield's attorney, confirmed that, in July, he had made such a request.) According to Beavers, Wingfield was ranked because of attrition; Phil Jackson had moved to heavyweight, and James Pritchard had been kayoed in one round by Warring.

Still, despite the lack of talent in the division, Wingfield was unworthy. He began his career with 16 consecutive victories against soft opposition, and has since gone 5-4-1. He lost his last two fights in 1990, and, before squaring off with Warring, fought to a six-round draw with Zaire's Lumbala Tshibamba and scored a six-round decision over Serge Bolivard. At the time of their fights with Wingfield, Tshibamba was 8-3-3, and Bolivard 11-19-6, and the loser of seven of his last eight.

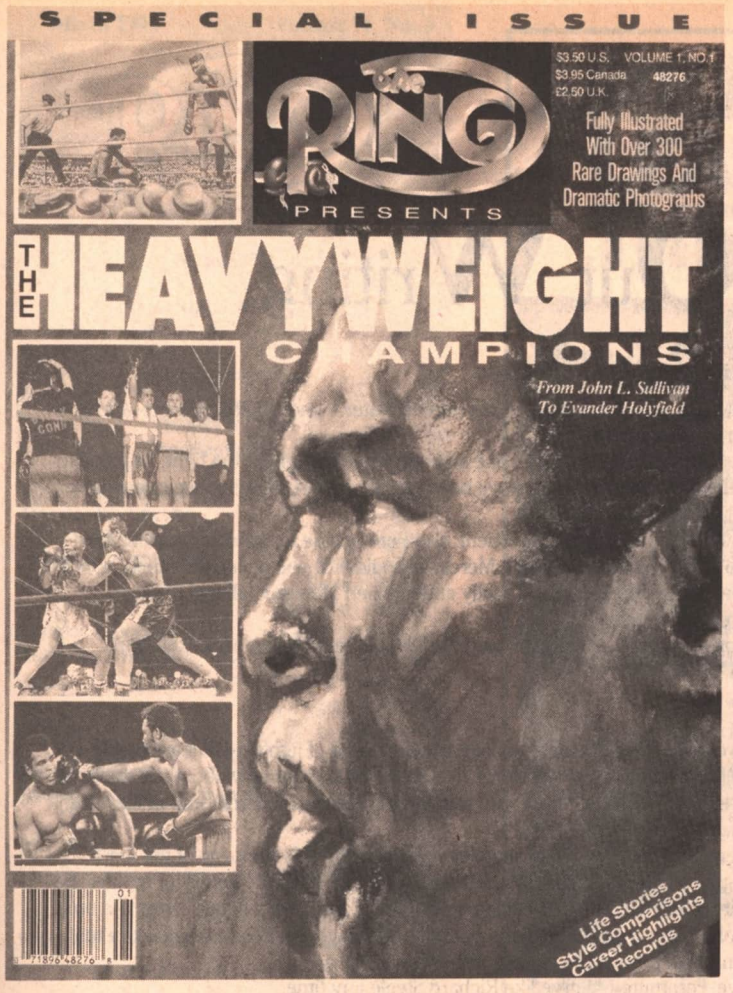
"He's been kayoed by *Kemper Morton*, for God's sake," Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz said of Wingfield.

"When fighters win, they're entitled to be put in the ratings," countered Cedric Kushner, who promoted Warring-Wingfield.

As it turned out, Wingfield was competitive for about three rounds; Warring kayoed him in the fifth.

Let's protect everyone by changing the rule: The alphabet boys should each rate a top 20 and allow their champions to defend against numbers 11-20, not just 1-10. Then, when searching for a substitute, a legitimate champion like Holyfield won't jeopardize his titles by having to face unranked opposition, and a fringe champion like Warring will have an easier time justifying inferior competition and an easy payday.

**Steve Farhood**
**Editor-In-Chief**

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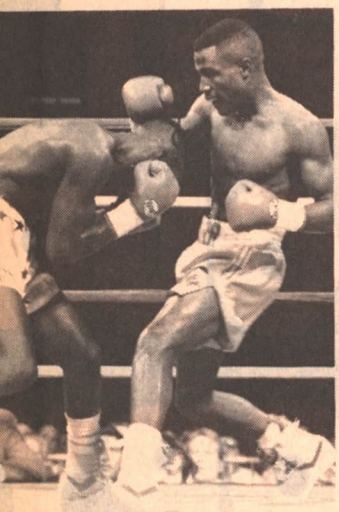
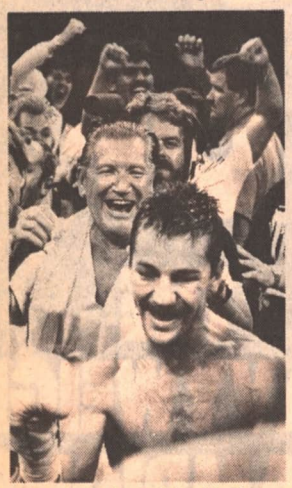
*Ref Perez: Standing and watching*



*Carr: Stealing a decision*



*Mitchell: Fighter of the Year?*

## STOP THE REF!

Can anyone tell me how boxing chooses its referees? After witnessing the Mercer-Morrison fight, this question has to be considered.

Tony Perez was not a referee, but more like an observer. Throughout the fight, he failed to do his job. Come the fifth round, he must have been watching Marla Maples, because what happened was a disgrace.

Mercer was beating an unconscious opponent, and Perez chose to stand and watch. And when he did try to stop it, all he did was tap Mercer's shoulder. If you watch the replay, you'll see that Perez didn't even stop the fight; it really ended when Morrison fell and Mercer walked away. Perez had no effect.

You're telling me that Perez actually got paid for this? He sent boxing back 100 years.

JOSEPH FRANK IACONA
Hempstead, NY

After a year's worth of complaints about the early stoppages of fights by Richard Steele, I'd like to ask boxing fans what is worse: a referee like Steele, who cares only about the safety of the fighters, or a referee like Tony Perez, who stopped the Mercer-Morrison bout at least eight blows too late?

The TV commentators had a field day showing replays of Steele's stoppage of the first Tyson-Ruddock fight. When working a fight, a referee does not have the luxury of replays; he has to make a split-second decision that could determine the health of a fighter. During a time when opponents of boxing are getting plenty of media coverage, we need to make sure that every attempt is made to protect the fighters from serious injury.

I'll take an active, committed referee like Richard Steele any time.

RON WOODWARD
Portland, OR

## CARR ROBBERY

I just watched the Oba Carr-Livingstone Bramble fight. On my scorecard, I intentionally favored Carr in any round that I considered debatable, figuring that's what a hometown judge would do. Still, I couldn't figure out how Bramble could have failed to win by at least three points. (Carr won by split decision.) It seems obvious that some judges feel obliged to score for whatever fighter the local promoter has an interest in. Perhaps *The Ring* should do a story on how judges are chosen, and which ones have been responsible for bad decisions. *Name names.* Or maybe you could begin a "Robbery of the Month" feature. Hopefully, an installment per month wouldn't be necessary.

ALAN BRINTON
Boise, ID

Having watched Oba Carr-Livingstone Bramble, I must say I was impressed by both fighters. Bramble fought a great fight and should have won the decision. Carr demonstrated championship heart and the ability to come from behind.

Though the decision angered many fans, neither fighter's career was hurt. Bramble will secure another big fight, and Carr will learn from the experience. Look for a world title in his future.

MONTE COX
Danville, IL

## MITCHELL'S THE MAN

When *The Ring* comes to voting for 1991's Fighter of the Year, I hope you will take into consideration IBF junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell. This is a champion who has fought against the odds for many years, and he is a professional in the truest sense of the word.

If Mitchell's comprehensive victory over Tony Lopez does not prove my point, nothing will. With the exception of Mitchell, I cannot think of another fighter who has done anything outstanding in 1991. Against all odds, he keeps going.

PETER STERNBERG
Kadoma, Zimbabwe ■

March 1992 Volume 71, No. 3

The RING

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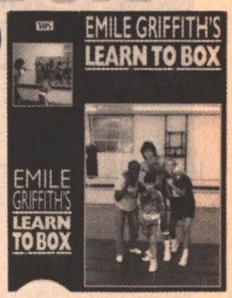
# EMILE GRIFFITH'S LEARN TO BOX THE VIDEO

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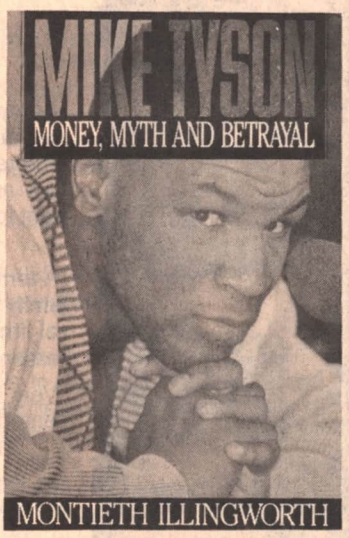
# Round One

*Another Tyson bio*




## TYSON, PART IV

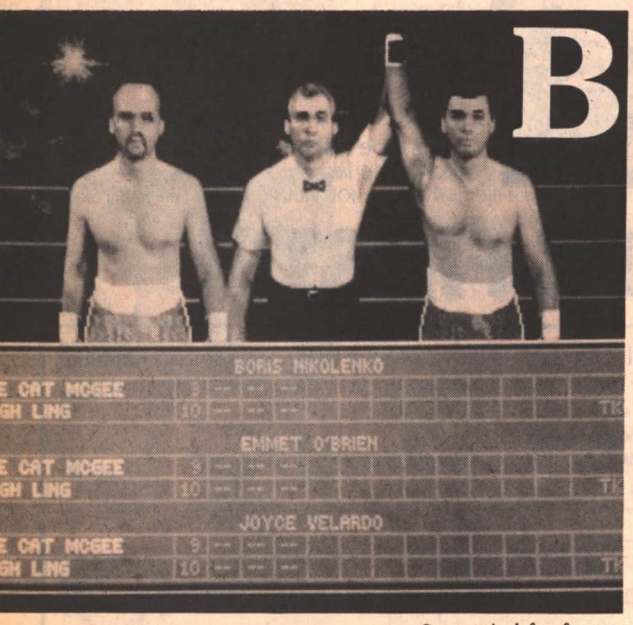
Just when you thought Mike Tyson's biographers had punched themselves out . . .

In 1989, Tyson bios, written by Peter Heller, Phil Berger, and Jose Torres, were published in rapid succession. Today, of course, there's even more of a spectacular story to tell, including Tyson's 1990 title fight loss to Buster Douglas and his recent indictment on rape charges. In *Mike Tyson: Money, Myth, And Betrayal,* Montieth Illingworth dissects the former, but not the latter, a story that broke past his deadline.

For the most part, Illingworth examines the all-too-familiar details of Tyson's past that were amply covered in the '89 biographies: his violent childhood, his introduction to Cus D'Amato and boxing, his relationship with Jim Jacobs, who, along with Bill Cayton, guided his charge to the heavyweight title, his doomed marriage. What separates his book from its predecessors is two-fold. First, Illingworth's reporting is exhaustive, and some of his sources, like Dorothy Zeil (Jacobs' sister), Nick Beck (one of Jacobs' oldest friends), and former New York State Athletic Commission member James Dupree, are fresh. Second, the author carefully chronicles Jacobs' lengthy battle with leukemia (he died in 1988), and how his illness, which he hid from Tyson, affected the fighter's career.

I found Illingworth's work an interesting, indeed, at times, a fascinating read. But the book should come with a warning: From beginning to end, the author's tone is suffocatingly cynical. It can be argued, I suppose, that in telling a story about boxing, any other tone would be inappropriate.

***—Steve Farhood***




*Computerized fun & games*

## BYTES AND PIECES

If you're a fan of computer games, you already know how sophisticated and realistic they can be. If you're not, it's time you found out that Rock-Em-Sock-Em Robots is no longer the state-of-the-art boxing game.

ABC's Wide World Of Sports Boxing ($49.95), a sports simulation from Data East USA, Inc., is the latest, greatest entry in an ever-growing field. It requires a minimum of 640K of memory, and can be played on an IBM PC and compatible computers.

The game features 256-color VGA digitized graphics, a superior arcade interface, and an on-disk "TV Boxing Magazine." What makes it special, however, is the "career mode," which allows players to move a boxer from the start of his pro career until retirement. You can hire and fire managers and trainers, decide which bouts to accept, and even what equipment to use in order to develop specific strengths.

For those with less patience, the "exhibition mode" allows players to jump right into the ring and begin brawling. But if that's your idea of fun, Rock Em-Sock-Em Robots still probably suits you fine.

*Sullivan (left) and Corbett*

## CARD SHARP, BOXING DUMB

Boxing history got a fast shuffle in *Gambler III,* the November TV mini-series starring Kenny Rogers. Part of the plot revolved around the heavyweight title fight between John L. Sullivan and James J. Corbett. According to the film, the famous fight occurred in Virginia City, Nevada, when Teddy Roosevelt was President. In fact, Sullivan-Corbett took place in New Orleans in 1892, 12 years before Roosevelt occupied the White House.

Worse yet, the fight poster used in the movie showed Corbett against Charles Mitchell, a match that took place two years *after* "Gentleman Jim" knocked out Sullivan. At least they reported the result correctly.

***—Pete Ehrmann***

## OUTSIDE THE ROPES

*Challenger Morito Kashiwaba and Arrendondo in 1973*

Former WBC super featherweight champion Ricardo Arredondo, 42, was killed in a car crash on September 20 in Morelia, Mexico. Arredondo won the crown by kayoing Yoshiaki Numata in October 1971, and retired in 1979 with a record of 76-22-1 (57). His younger brother Rene is a former WBC super lightweight champion . . . According to *Boxing News,* former WBA junior bantamweight champion Gustavo Ballas was arrested in Argentina for robbing two offices with a toy pistol . . . USBA 115-pound champion Johnny Tapia was stripped of his license by the New Mexico Athletic Commission after his third positive drug test in a year. The commission reported that Tapia's most recent urinalysis result showed 150 milligrams of cocaine per milliliter in his system, the highest level measurable . . . William Hughes of Executive Investment Co. in Las Vegas, purchased Joe Louis' championship belt for $100,000 at an auction in Beverly Hills, California. "It's an astounding piece," he said. Hughes added that the belt's value could increase to as much as $250,000 within the next two years . . . Former WBC super bantamweight champion Kiyoshi Hatanaka retired because of an injury to his left eye suffered during his unsuccessful June defense against Daniel Zaragoza.

## THE PUNCHLINE

What does a "Macho" man do for fun on a Saturday night in October? In Fort Myers, Florida, a state trooper stopped Hector "Macho" Camacho for driving his newly purchased black 1988 Ferrari too slowly on an interstate highway. Camacho was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

A police report said the trooper pulled Camacho over after noticing a passenger was sitting on the driver's lap. The passenger turned out to be the former world champion's girlfriend. What was she doing on Camacho's lap?

"The way I see it," Camacho told the *New York Post,* "this is better than getting caught with drugs, or killing someone. Really, it was kind of cute." ■

# The Ring Ratings

**For Period Ended November 20, 1991**

## How Our Ratings Are Compiled

*In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.*

*Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.*

*These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.*

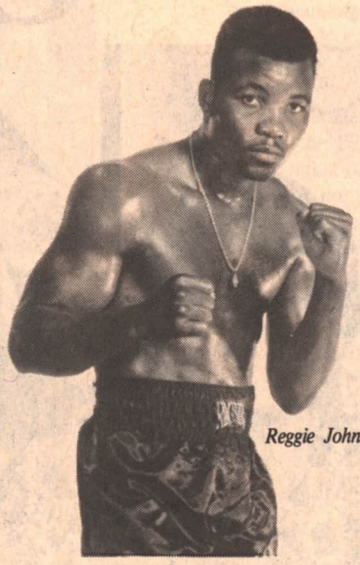
**Ratings By *The Ring* Editors**
**Records Compiled By Eric Armit**

### HEAVYWEIGHTS
*Weight Unlimited*

1. EVANDER HOLYFIELD — Atlanta, GA *25-0 (World Champ)*
2. MIKE TYSON — Catskill, NY *41-1*
3. RIDDICK BOWE — Brooklyn, NY *27-0*
4. RAZOR RUDDOCK — Canada *25-3-1*
5. RAY MERCER — Newark, NJ *18-0*
6. TIM WITHERSPOON — Philadelphia, PA *35-3*
7. GEORGE FOREMAN — Marshall, TX *69-3*
8. TONY TUCKER — Beverly Hills, CA *41-1*
9. LENNOX LEWIS — England *17-0*
10. MICHAEL MOORER — Detroit, MI *25-0*

### MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 160 pounds*

1. MIKE McCALLUM — Brooklyn, NY *42-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. JAMES TONEY — Ann Arbor, MI *28-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. JULIAN JACKSON — Virgin Islands *42-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. SUMBU KALAMBAY — Italy *51-5-1*
5. STEVE COLLINS — Brockton, MA *20-1*
6. NIGEL BENN — England *29-2*
7. REGGIE JOHNSON — Houston, TX *29-2-1*
8. ROY JONES — Pensacola, FL *15-0*
9. LAMAR PARKS — Greeneville, SC *18-0*
10. SEGUNDO MERCADO — Puerto Rico *11-2*



*Reggie Johnson*

### JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
*Weight limit: 154 pounds*

1. TERRY NORRIS — Mission Valley, CA *29-3 (WBC Ch*
2. GIANFRANCO ROSI — Italy *52-3 (IBF Champ)*
3. VINNY PAZIENZA — Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*
4. JOHN DAVID JACKSON — Tucson, AZ *24-0*
5. VERNON PHILLIPS — New York, NY *14-5*
6. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ — Argentina *32-1*
7. JORGE CASTRO — Argentina *64-2-2*
8. GILBERT DELE — France *29-1-1*
9. JORGE VACA — Mexico *44-8-1*
10. AARON DAVIS — Bronx, NY *32-1*

### FEATHERWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 126 pounds*

1. PAUL HODKINSON — England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. MANUEL MEDINA — Mexico *40-3 (IBF Champ)*
3. YUNG KYUN PARK — South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. TROY DORSEY — Mansfield, TX *13-4-4*
5. MARCOS VILLASANA — Mexico *54-8-2*
6. MAURIZIO STECCA — Italy *44-1*
7. JOSE MARTINEZ — Hanford, CA *17-4-1*
8. TOM JOHNSON — Detroit, MI *26-2-1*
9. KEVIN KELLEY — Flushing, NY *24-0*
10. RICARDO CEPEDA — Bronx, NY *24-1-1*

### JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 122 pounds*

1. JESSE BENAVIDES — Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*
2. WELCOME NCITA — South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. RAUL PEREZ — Mexico *49-2-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. DANIEL ZARAGOZA — Mexico *43-5-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. LUIS MENDOZA — Colombia *32-3-2*
6. JESUS SALUD — San Diego, CA *39-4*
7. PEDRO DECIMA — Argentina *26-3*
8. TRACY PATTERSON — New Paltz, NY *43-2*
9. JEMAL HINTON — District Heights, MD *20-0*
10. LUISITO ESPINOSA — Philippines *25-6*

### BANTAMWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 118 pounds*

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES — Laredo, TX *29-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. ISRAEL CONTRERAS — Venezuela *35-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI — Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. PEPILLO VALDEZ — Mexico *39-3-1*
5. DUKE McKENZIE — England *30-2*
6. JUNIOR JONES — Brooklyn, NY *20-0*
7. THIERRY JACOB — France *31-3*
8. YONG HOON LEE — South Korea *19-0*
9. ELIECER JULIO — Colombia *18-0*
10. GERARDO MARTINEZ — San Jose, CA *27-1*

## CRUISERWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 195 pounds*

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *32-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

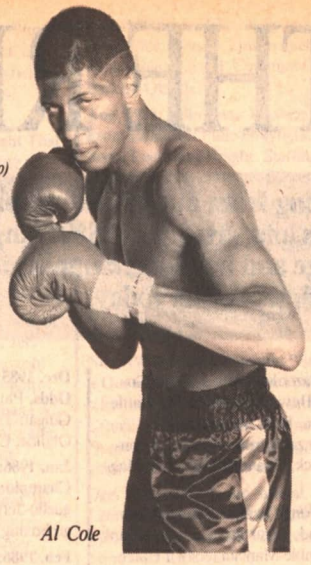
6 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

7 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *19-1*

8 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *30-3*

9 **JOHNNY NELSON**
England *21-5-1*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *36-8-1*



*Al Cole*

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 175 pounds*

1 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Las Vegas, NV *30-1*

4 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *39-9-2*

6 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *29-2*

7 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *32-0*

8 **ANDREW MAYNARD**
Laurel, MD *18-1*

9 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Beckley, WV *22-1-1*

10 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *13-1*

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 168 pounds*

1 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *15-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *36-1*

3 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *29-0*

5 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

6 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *44-6-1*

7 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *17-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

8 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

9 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2*

10 **RANDALL YONKER**
Mobile, AL *20-1*

## WELTERWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 147 pounds*

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *28-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Brentwood, NY *54-2-1*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *39-2-2*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *34-2*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *24-0*

8 **HIROYUKI YOSHINO**
Japan *20-3-1*

9 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

10 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *27-1-1*

## JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 140 pounds*

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *76-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *40-6*

3 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

4 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *47-7-2*

5 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *22-1*

6 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

7 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *29-4-1*

8 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *29-2-1*

9 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *52-2-2*

10 **PAT BARRETT**
England *31-1-1*

## LIGHTWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 135 pounds*

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *27-1 (World Champ)*

2 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *31-17-3*

3 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *39-4-4*

4 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *26-1*

5 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *35-4*

6 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *25-0*

7 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

8 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

9 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *25-0*

10 **JUAN NAZARIO**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

*Jorge Paez*

## JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 130 pounds*

1 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-0-1*

2 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *43-1-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

5 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *24-3*

6 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *23-0*

7 **DANIEL LONDAS**
France *55-7-1*

8 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *20-0*

9 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *25-1-1*

10 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *24-1*

## JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 115 pounds*

1 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Thailand *48-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *18-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *15-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

5 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *36-2*

6 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *44-8-1*

8 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *21-5-3*

9 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *11-1*

10 **CARLOS MERCADO**
Colombia *20-0-1*

## FLYWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 112 pounds*

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *24-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *26-3-1*

6 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *38-4*

7 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *9-0*

8 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *25-0*

9 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *26-3-1*

10 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *19-0*

## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
*Weight limit: 108 pounds*

1 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *21-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *31-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *29-3-3*

5 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *18-2-1*

6 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-0*

7 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

8 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

9 **JERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *12-0-1*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTA**
Panama *21-0*

*Myung Woo Yuh*

## POUND FOR POUND
*Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound*

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

6 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
Light Flyweight

7 **JEFF FENECH**
Junior Lightweight

8 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

9 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Junior Bantamweight

10 **SIMON BROWN**
Welterweight

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**Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!'** Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

**Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks.** Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

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**June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.'** Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

**July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan.** Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

**Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special.** Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

**Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion.** Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

**Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men.** Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

**Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho.** Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

**Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action.** Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

**Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title.** Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

**March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns.** Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

**April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program.** Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

**May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action.** Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

**June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action.** Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

**July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb?** Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

**Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale).** Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

**Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior?** Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

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**Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast?** Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

**Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds.** Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

**Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion.** Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

**Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato.** Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

**March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry.** Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

**April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title.** Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

**May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast.** Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

**June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene.** Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

**July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won?** Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

**Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet?** Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

**Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win?** Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

**Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes?** Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

**Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making.** Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

**Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World.** Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

**April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue.** Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

**May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year.** Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

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**July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die.** Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

**Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style.** Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

**Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future?** Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

**Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously!** Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

**Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown.** Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

**Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys.** Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

**Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby?** Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

**Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide.** Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

**March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History."** Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

**April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year.** Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

**May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson."** Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

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**July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue.** Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

**Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan.** Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

**Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again!** Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

**Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory?** Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

**Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!"** Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

**Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special.** Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

**Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom.** Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

**Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez.** Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

**March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray?** Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

**May 1989: The Best Of '88.** Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

**Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68.** Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

**Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson:** Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

**March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters** (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

**April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year** (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

**May 1990: Big George Talks Tough!** Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

**June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World.** Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

**July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield.** Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

**Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever?** Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

**Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation?** Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

**Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990.** Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

**Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past?** Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

**Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

**Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules.** Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

**Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay.** Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

**March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ.** Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

**April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color).** Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

**May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century.** Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

**June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez.** Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

**July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter.** Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

**August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill.** Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

**September 1991: George Foreman: A Four-Decade Man And Still Not Ready To Hang 'Em Up.** Plus: Charley Burley, Alex Garcia, Danny Lopez, Jackie "Kid" Berg, computer middleweight tournament, boxing's greatest years, Ortiz-Whitaker, "heavy-hitting" *Ring* covers (color).

**October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go?** Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

**November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment?** Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

**December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why** Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).


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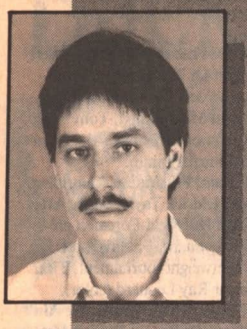
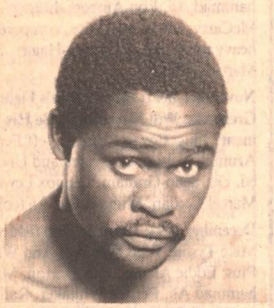


# Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

## CALL TO THE HALL

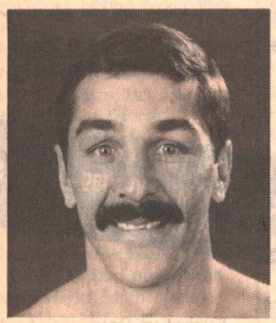
Fame is fleeting, unless, of course, your climb toward success culminates on a pedestal at the hall of fame. Then you wear fame forever. It's time again to analyze the chances of another bunch of fighters aspiring and perspiring to get inside those hoary and hallowed walls. As usual, I'll concentrate on the borderline crowd, since it's no fun to debate the merits of Sugar Ray Leonard, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Dave Jaco. The candidates chosen have either retired, are expected to retire soon, or should retire.



**AZUMAH NELSON:** A tough one to wrestle with, but in the end, the thumb turns down. Blame Don King for letting Nelson get stale on the shelf. But blame Nelson for never getting it done in the fights that mattered.

Nelson had the misfortune of turning in the performance of a career when he was still in diapers. In just his 14th pro fight, he gave the great Salvador Sanchez true hell before falling in the 15th round. Nelson would eventually win a featherweight title, and a junior lightweight belt, too, but the competition rarely threatened, even on paper. He was thoroughly outboxed by Pernell Whitaker at 135 pounds, then beaten by Jeff Fenech at 130, though the official decision was a draw. Expect Nelson to drop a rematch with the Aussie in March, then retire.

Solid, just not spectacular.



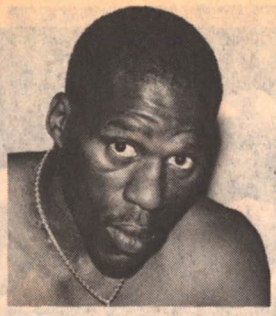
**BRIAN MITCHELL:** In a sport where the power brokers demand that every fight be a Guns N' Roses concert, Mitchell is Arlo Guthrie in a thousand-seat theater. Solid performer. Loyal following that appreciates his work. But when they announce one of his gigs, you don't see anybody setting up a sleeping bag outside a Ticketron in 40-degree weather.

Some guys win the hall of fame lottery because their ticket has the right numbers. Others get carried across the threshold by the intangibles. Mitchell gets in both ways. His record, 43-1-3 (20), includes 12 defenses of the WBA crown and a capturing of the IBF belt. The fact that he's never faced the likes of Nelson, Fenech, or Whitaker is compensated for by the unique handicap that he's been forced to overcome.

Because the WBA won't stage title fights in his native South Africa, Mitchell was on the road longer than double yellow lines. He defended the crown in Puerto Rico, Panama, France, Italy (five times), Spain, England, Maine, and California. He consistently won on the other guy's turf, something difficult to do in any sport.

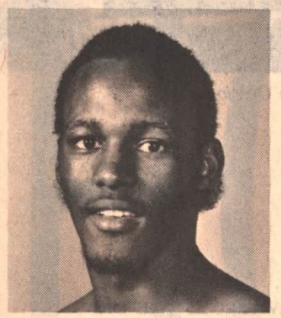
As a special treat, following Mitchell's induction, the first 500 visitors to the hall will receive a tiny bar of soap and a hotel towel from the champion's personal collection.

**ROGER MAYWEATHER:** "The Black Mamba" snaked his way to WBC titles at 130 and 140 pounds, and, as we went to press, was about to meet Rafael Pineda for the IBF's vacant junior welterweight crown. If you're into longevity, consider that Mayweather is as dangerous at age 30 as he was when he first won the crown at 21. The fastball—his right hand—still has pop. And the changeup—his left jab—still makes the guy swinging at him look silly.



Mayweather's blemish has always been losing the truly big one. He beat faded Sammy Serrano for the belt at 130, and limited Rene Arredondo at 140. Wins over Mario Martinez, Sammy Fuentes, Vinny Pazienza, Terrence Alli, and Harold Brazier are impressive, but not the stuff of an all-time great.

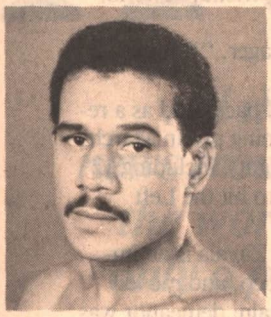
Memories of Mayweather being stopped by Rocky Lockridge, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Freddie Pendleton, being decisioned by Pernell Whitaker, and quitting in a rematch with Chavez all stick in the mind. Those outcomes were clear-cut, and, thus, so is this verdict: No entry.



**DONALD CURRY:** Of everyone on this list, Curry was the *real* can't-miss property. But not long after unifying the welterweight crown with a 1985 massacre of Milton McCrory, "The Cobra" made two mistakes: He remained at 147 pounds too long, and he ditched manager Dave Gorman.

The first moved wreaked mayhem on his body, and the second on his mind. Gaunt and guilt-ridden, he was upset by Lloyd Honeyghan in 1986. He'd eventually capture a crown at 154, but by then his place in history had been sledgehammered by a Mike McCallum left hand that had put him down and out. I'll always reward short-term greatness over long-term goodness, and favor a guy who hits .330 for six years over one who hits .290 for 15 years. But Curry's period of greatness was far too brief.

He was *destined* to be a three-division champion, the conqueror of Marvin Hagler, and an all-time great. At the very least, the hall of fame was going to build a wing in his honor. But by the time he was just winging it against the pitiful Rene Jacquot in 1989, the hall was already giving the architect his pink slip.



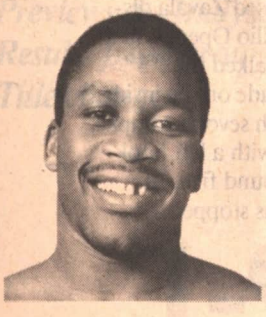
**EDWIN ROSARIO:** The Puerto Rican bomber never fulfilled the expectations of those who dubbed him "The Duran of the '80s," but who ever could? Rosario has had a special career in *his own* way. That has meant coming back to win time and time again when he wasn't supposed to have a chance.

Hall of famers do extraordinary things. After losing the WBC lightweight crown to Jose Luis Ramirez in '84, 4-1 underdog Rosario came back two years later and kayoed iron-chinned WBA king Livingstone Bramble. After being stopped and, we thought, finished, by Chavez in '87, he faced Anthony Jones for the vacant WBA crown two years later. Trailing on all three cards, Rosario essentially ended the fight with a single right in round six. And this year, underdog Rosario won the WBA junior welterweight title by stopping local hero Loreto Garza in Sacramento.

My favorite Rosario comeback of all, though, occurred in 1984. Behind on points, "El Chapo" saved the title via split decision when he floored Howard Davis with just *10 seconds* left in their bout.

When you stop at Rosario's hall of fame display case, be sure to check out the magic wand affixed to the palm of one of his gloves.

**KHAOSAI GALAXY:** The Thai terror has been the WBA junior bantam king for seven years, and his *18* defenses are the most of any active champion. How's a record of 48-1 (43)? When the hall goes looking for the lighter-weight Mr. Goodbar, it'll find that Galaxy (who, by the way, still seeks a big payday) is the toughest (Zag) nut in the Milky Way, bar none. No candy-ass, this guy.



**TIM WITHERSPOON:** Fragmented titles have done more than just cheapen champions' achievements and confuse fans. They've also destroyed a whole generation of trivia questions. Here's the most besmirched of all:

Question: Who are the only fighters to regain the heavyweight title?

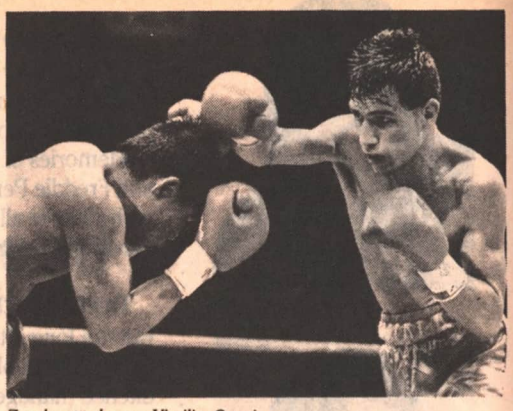
Answer: Floyd Patterson, Muhammad Ali, and Tim Witherspoon.

Yes, Witherspoon made, *ahem,* history. But no, he doesn't deserve a spot in the hall. Patterson won his crowns against Archie Moore and Ingemar Johansson. Ali captured his against Sonny Liston, George Foreman, and Leon Spinks. 'Spoon won *versions* of the title from a couple of juggernauts named Greg Page and Tony Tubbs. Pure sacrilege.

Though talented, 'Spoon epitomized the flabby, lazy heavyweight of much of the '80s. If we held a dedication for him, it would no doubt be the first time he ever heard the word. Forget it, Timmy. People don't want to see your bust in the hall. They've seen enough of it over the past 12 years. ■

# New Faces

By Robert Cassidy



*Zavala attacks vs. Virgilio Openio*

## Rudy Zavala

*Junior Featherweight*

### PRO RECORD

**1990**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| March 26 | Rafael Martinez, Irvine, CA | W 4 |
| April 16 | Rafael Martinez, Inglewood | KO 3 |
| June 18 | Heriberto Rodriguez, Inglewood | KO 1 |
| Oct. 22 | Juan Torres, Inglewood | W 4 |
| Dec. 5 | Rogelio Perez, San Diego | KO 2 |

**1991**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feb. 11 | Carlos Navarro, Inglewood | KO 1 |
| March 11 | Enio Franco, Inglewood | KO 1 |
| March 25 | Alvaro Medel, Inglewood | KO 6 |
| April 19 | Idelfonso Bernal, Inglewood | KO 3 |
| May 17 | Cornelio Lucatero, Reseda, CA | KO 1 |
| June 10 | Elio Dominguez, Inglewood | KO 2 |
| Aug. 26 | Virgilio Openio, Inglewood | KO 6 |
| Oct. 21 | Mark Brooks, Inglewood | KO 1 |
| Nov. 14 | Lee Cargle, Bozeman, MT | KO 5 |

| RECORD: | FIGHTS | WON | LOST | DREW | KO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 12 |

Rudy Zavala happens to be a little more laid back than your average 23-year-old fighter. But so what if he sounds like he'd rather be at the beach hanging 10 than going 10 rounds on the heavybag. And what does it matter if he spends his spare time playing *tennis* with his cousin. Don't let that calm, friendly exterior fool you.

"Yeah, he's laid back," mused Herb Stone, Zavala's manager. "But not when it gets down to business. He takes it right to them."

When Zavala climbs into a boxing ring, he's no longer laid back, and as a result, most of his opponents end up getting *laid out*. Since turning pro in March 1990, the 5'6½" junior featherweight has won all 14 of his fights, including 12 by kayo. To boxing insiders, he has become the hottest item to hit the Left Coast since boogie boards.

Like early-'80s California sensation Fernando Valenzuela, Zavala is an import from south of the border. He was born in Tijuana, Mexico, and moved north to Rosemead, California, at age 10. That is where his calm demeanor was shaped.

While growing up, Zavala enjoyed a wide variety of sports and activities, but, he said, he was always most interested in boxing. How could he help himself? His grandfather, Jesse Zavala, was an amateur boxer in Mexico and later trained his sons when they launched their own amateur careers. The family tradition was passed down to Rudy by his father, Rodolfo, who fought as a bantamweight. Rodolfo brought his son to the gym for the first time when Rudy was 14.

Every day, after classes at San Gabriel High School, Rudy would travel to East L.A. to train. Rodolfo, who owns a jewelry repair shop, has taught his son well. Rudy won a California Golden Gloves title in 1985, and as a streaking pro, has displayed patience, technique, and power in both hands.

"My father has always supported me," Zavala said. "We had our first vision of me being a world champion about three years ago."

That vision came into sharper focus in August, when a poised Zavala dismantled his toughest opponent to date, Filipino brawler Virgilio Openio, in a scheduled 12-rounder at the Great Western Forum. Zavala stalked the 5'3" Openio in the opening rounds and showed a willingness to trade on the inside with the smaller fighter. Openio was able to reach Zavala with several compact hooks, but couldn't slow his attack. Zavala dropped his foe with a left hook late in round three and again with a textbook right cross in round five. In round six, Zavala pressed the attack further, and the fight was stopped.

*(Continued on page 65)*

# BOXING HOTLINE

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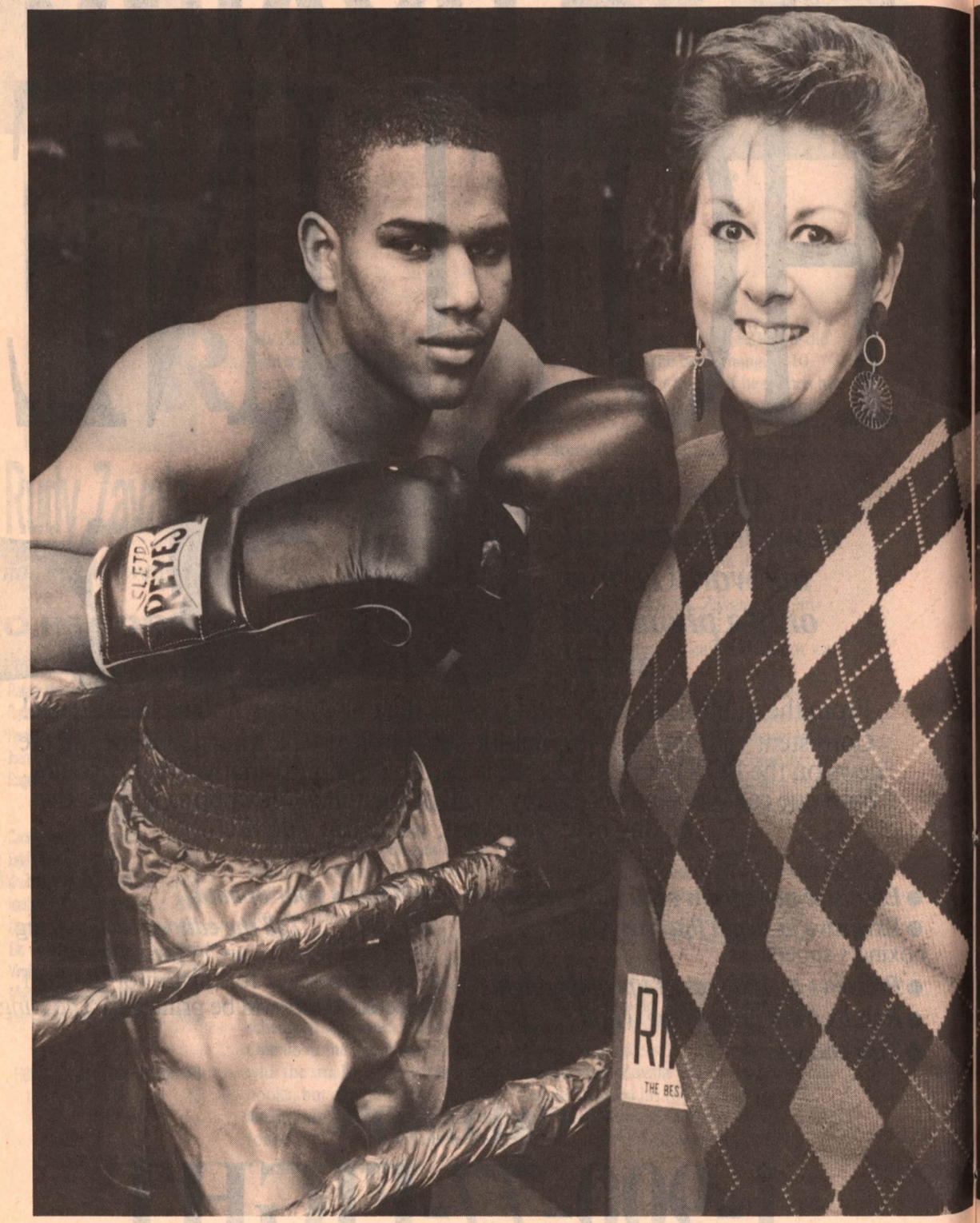
Photo By Phil Masturzo




Undefeated Maryland lightweight Sharmba Mitchell with his number-one fan, Arlene Staeb, at the fighter's gym.

# SUPERFANS

## "ALWAYS IN THEIR FIGHTERS' CORNERS"

North Dakota's Betty Klein and former light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill are mutual fans.

Legendary four-division champion Roberto Duran with superfans Janey and Jerry Julian in Las Vegas.

By Dan Hirshberg

**Fan, or fanatic:** *A devoted admirer, a person inspired with excessive and bigoted enthusiasm.*

Fans, or fanatics, have long been a huge part of the sports scene, from the days of combat at the Colosseum in Rome, to the modern era of pro team sports, and combat of a different kind at Coliseums in Phoenix, Memphis, Los Angeles, and Richfield, Ohio. Boxing has always had its share of fans, too, from the earliest recorded championship fights to the present day. Unlike other sports, however, boxing does not have teams to root for, only individuals. The fighters grow up in one town, train in another, and fight in cities far removed from either. As a result, their followings are usually limited.

But consider Arlene Staeb, who religiously makes the trek to Atlantic City from her home in Maryland to see lightweight contender Sharmba Mitchell. Or Betty Klein, who keeps a close watch on former WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill. Or Janey and Jerry Julian, who owe their marriage, in part, to Roberto Duran. These are fans in the truest sense.

*Arlene Staeb, 51, lives in Bowie, Maryland. A mother and grandmother, Staeb works as a part-time bookkeeper for East Coast Building Services.*

"We're originally from upstate New York," Arlene says. "I grew up in Albany, and we'd go to the Catskills for vacations. One time Mike Tyson was up there training for his third pro fight. I got interested in boxing. I started watching all the time."

The Staeb family moved to Bowie, which, Arlene said, is "20 minutes from D.C., 30 minutes from Baltimore, and is in the middle of everything." Soon

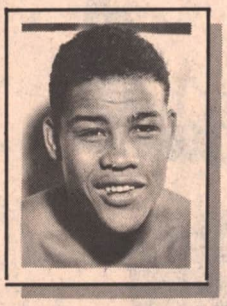
*(Continued on page 65)*

# BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

### Joe Louis

Detroit, Michigan
Career: 1934-1948; 1950-1951
63-3 with 49 kayos



*The first black heavyweight champion since Jack Johnson, Louis became a symbol for his race, his sport, and his country. His title reign was the longest ever, and his 25 defenses remains a record. In the eyes of many ring historians, he was the greatest heavyweight titlist of all.*

*En route to the championship, Louis suffered a single setback, a shocking 1936 kayo loss to former champion Max Schmeling. A strong boxer and calculating and devastating puncher, he rebounded to dethrone James J. Braddock by eighth-round knockout in June 1937. He followed with 21 defenses, including a first-round kayo of Schmeling and a come-from-behind knockout of Billy Conn, a four-year stint in the Army, four post-War defenses, and then retirement.*

*Louis made a comeback, but his losses to Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano failed to diminish his legend. He was a pure American hero.*

### Muhammad Ali

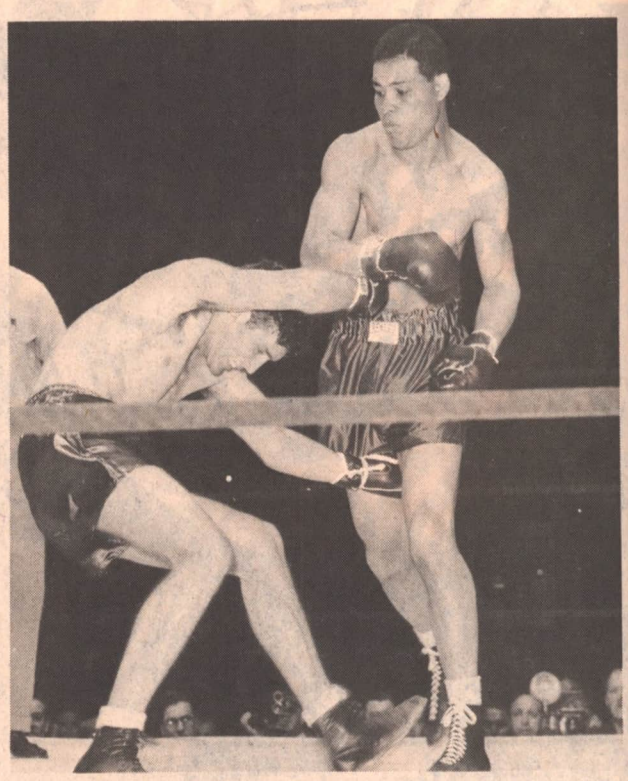
Louisville, Kentucky
Career: 1960-1978; 1980-1981
56-5 with 37 kayos

*Speed, skill, and heart enabled "The Greatest" to win the heavyweight title three times; luck allowed him to compete during the greatest era in the division's history; fate demanded that he become a symbol for an entire decade.*

*A 1960 Olympic gold medalist, Ali (then Cassius Clay) wowed us with his mouth, then his fists. A 7-1 underdog, he dethroned Sonny Liston by seventh-round TKO in February 1964. He won the rematch in one round, then made eight more defenses before being stripped for his refusal to be inducted into the armed forces. His stand, based on religious beliefs, cost him more than three years of his prime.*

*In the '70s, Ali twice regained the title and engaged in memorable wars with Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Ken Norton, Earnie Shavers, and Leon Spinks. Like Louis, he came back after retiring as champion, and was beaten twice. But his place among the giants had already been secured.*

***Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.***



*The stuff of which legends are made: Louis retains the heavyweight title for the 18th time with a come-from-behind 13th-round kayo of Billy Conn at New York City's Polo Grounds in June 1941. Conn was doomed when he foolishly elected to brawl.*

## HANK KAPLAN

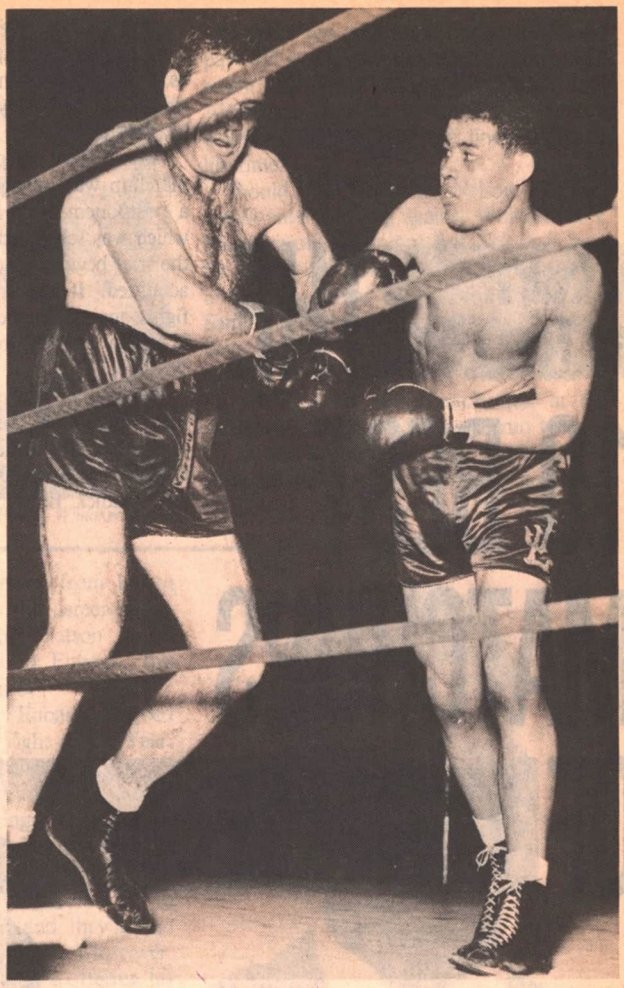
What immediately strikes me is the difference in styles. Louis had the perfect jab. He executed every punch perfectly. He was a shuffler who constantly pressured his opponents. Ali, on the other hand, had great quickness and foot speed. He was amazing. Unlike Joe's jab, Ali's was more of a tactical weapon that he would use to keep opponents off him. When he was in his prime, he could hit and move for an entire fight.

I see Ali using fantastic footwork and eluding Joe for most of the fight. Ali would have to stick and move. He'd be in and out. He couldn't stay in the danger zone with Louis, who destroyed slower heavyweights. Louis was by far the better puncher, but he couldn't outbox Ali. Joe was at his best when he was in range.

Ali-Louis would be on a level with the first Louis-Conn fight, only better. Ali was more clever on his feet and had faster hands than Conn. Louis would do his share of scoring, but Ali could take a punch better than anybody. Ali on points.

*Hank Kaplan is among boxing's foremost archivists and historians.*

*In the '70s, Ali traded blows with a handful of outstanding rivals, including Ken Norton, shown during his 12-round loss to "The Greatest" in September 1973. The Ali-Norton trilogy was comprised of three closely contested distance fights.*



*The "atomic punch" of contender Lou Nova was missing during his September 1941 title challenge of Louis. The champion dominated his passive foe and scored a one-punch, sixth-round kayo at the Polo Grounds. It was Louis' 19th successful defense.*

# FLOYD PATTERSON

This a matchup between a great infighter and a great outside fighter. Nobody threw shorter, more powerful, more accurate punches than Louis. He was very good at cutting off the ring, and he had great composure.

Clay had great movement. He didn't have a lot of power, but when he was younger, his punches, including his combinations, were very fast and accurate. He scored very well at long range. His speed and reflexes, more than his defensive skills, were what kept him from getting hit. And when Clay got caught, it helped that he had probably the best chin ever, and great recuperative powers, too.

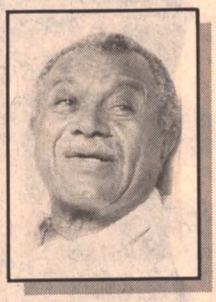
I don't see either fighter taking control at any time. It would be a very suspensful fight, with Louis slowly attacking, and Clay flurrying and dancing away. If Louis did tag Clay, or even put him down, Clay would be able to recover. It would be a fast-paced fight all the way. And in the end, it would be a draw.

***Floyd Patterson was the first heavyweight champion to regain the title. He lost twice to Muhammad Ali, in 1965 and 1972.***

# EDDIE FUTCH

This would have been quite a fight. I saw both up close and knew their strengths and flaws. Louis had one of the best analytical minds in the ring. He could figure out the weaknesses in even the best boxers and capitalize on them. Like Mike Tyson today, he threw great power combinations with accuracy to the body and head. And he was a great counterpuncher.

Ali relied mainly on his natural gifts, which were speed, movement, great balance, and a great chin. You could always count on him to do certain things, and not to do certain things. He relied on his jab and his right hand. He very seldom punched to the body. And when he pulled away from punches, he had the ability to counter.



Joe had problems with great boxers, like Billy Conn and Bob Pastor. But he was able to figure them out and stop them. Ali wasn't the boxer those two were. Ali would do well in the early rounds. Joe would work on Ali's body, and eventually stop him in the late rounds.

***Eddie Futch is considered by many to be the greatest trainer in history. He served as a sparring partner for Joe Louis, and worked the corners of Joe Frazier and Ken Norton during their victories over Ali.*** ■

The Ring's New Year's Wish

# THE 10 BEST MATCHUPS OF '92

By Steve Farhood

If 1991 is remembered as an off-year for boxing, it will be because of the title fight matchups that never materialized.

Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson was the biggest of them all, and the former champion's rib injury forced a postponement, if not a cancellation . . . A kayo loss suffered by Humberto Gonzalez at least temporarily spoiled a 108-pound showdown with Michael Carbajal . . . Early in the year, bantamweight champions Orlando Canizales and Luisito Espinosa could not agree on financial terms for their unification battle; in October, Espinosa was dethroned . . . A burning feud between promoters Dan Duva and Don King prevented negotiations for the most natural of rematches, Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor . . . A champion again, Thomas Hearns aimed for cruiserweight titlist Bobby Czyz, but then demanded several million dollars more than the fight was worth.

Happy New Year indeed.

It can only get better. Here, then, are the 10 best matchups of 1992.

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Undisputed champion Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson:** On? Off? Yes? No? Possibly? Maybe? Maybe not? Maybe later? Maybe never.

As we went to press, this monumental matchup was salvageable only if there was a postponement of Tyson's trial for rape, which was scheduled for February 27, or if the trial began on schedule and Tyson was acquitted. If the former champion never fights again, Holyfield-Tyson will go down in history as The Greatest Fight That Never Was.

But if the heavyweights clash, it could turn out to be the duel of the decade. Holyfield can successfully defend against George Foreman, Bert Cooper, Ray Mercer, Riddick Bowe, and the offensive line of the Chicago Bears, but if he doesn't defeat Tyson, his reign—and his standing in history—will forever be tainted. Argue with that and you're sadly underestimating the significance of Tyson in today's boxing game.

The pick remains Tyson, but it's difficult to handicap a battle with ever-increasing intangibles. Consider, for example, the hunger factor. If Tyson fights before his trial, it won't be necessary to convince him of the bout's significance; it will be an opportunity to regain the world title in what could prove to be his final effort. But if he fights after being acquitted, after facing more than *60* years in prison and walking free, will his motivation be affected? Tyson without an attitude is naked and, worse yet, impotent.

*Mike Tyson & Evander Holyfield*

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

**Undisputed champion Pernell Whitaker vs. Jeff Fenech:** This is as close as we're going to get to Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran I. It's difficult to imagine a more intriguing matchup, but before these champions square off, at least three things have to happen.

- Fenech has to dethrone WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson.
- The awesome Aussie, who won his first world title at *bantamweight,* must then decide to again rise in weight.
- Whitaker must remain at lightweight.

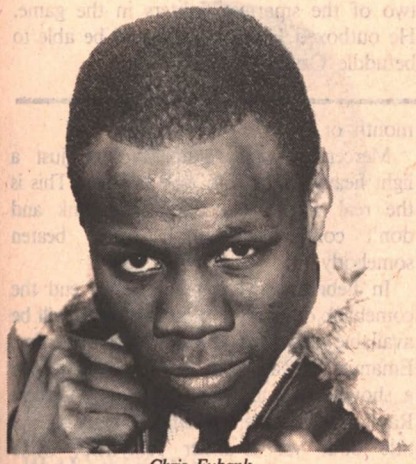
From a historical standpoint, these fighters desperately need each other. Whitaker, a dominant and long-standing champion, hasn't been pushed since his first fight vs. Jose Luis Ramirez, which came almost four years ago. It's doubtful that the southpaw will ever secure the respect reserved for recent 135-pound champions Duran and Alexis Arguello, but a victory over Fenech would establish him as the finest stylist of his time.

*Jeff Fenech* *Pernell Whitaker*

Should he dethrone Nelson, Fenech would enter the ring against Whitaker as a four-division champion. But Nelson is past his prime, and Fenech's three prior victims in his title-winning bouts, Satoshi Shingaki, Samart Payakarun, and Victor Callejas, have been easily forgotten.

We'll go with Whitaker, who's closer to his prime, a lot more comfortable at the weight, and able and willing to run to win.

On second thought, this might be as close as we're going to get to Leonard-Duran *III.*



*Chris Eubank*

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

**Chris Eubank vs. Nigel Benn:** In the all-British, always thrilling round-robin consisting of Eubank, Benn, and Michael Watson, Eubank is 3-0, Watson 1-2, and Benn 0-2. In 1991, the trio jumped from 160 to 168 pounds, and, given the career-ending head injuries suffered by Watson in his September stoppage loss to Eubank, this rematch is all that remains.

In November 1990, Eubank kayoed Benn in a candidate for Fight of the Year. There's every reason to believe that the sequel will provide equal drama and intensity. Brash, outspoken, singular, and confrontational, Eubank and Benn are classic rivals whose personalities can't help but clash; place them at opposite ends of an empty Wembley Stadium and they'll find an excuse to brush shoulders. Moreover, their styles mesh, with Eubank offering his distinctive style of boxing, and Benn serving up one of the game's most dangerous punches.

In training, Eubank stresses psychological preparation, and it's paid off. In his slugfest with Benn and his rematch with Watson, the winner's mental toughness was the difference. Having survived Benn's best blows, he holds a significant psychological advantage over his adversary. Look for a repeat stoppage victory, but not without an unexpected turn or two along the way.

*Nigel Benn*

## FLYWEIGHTS

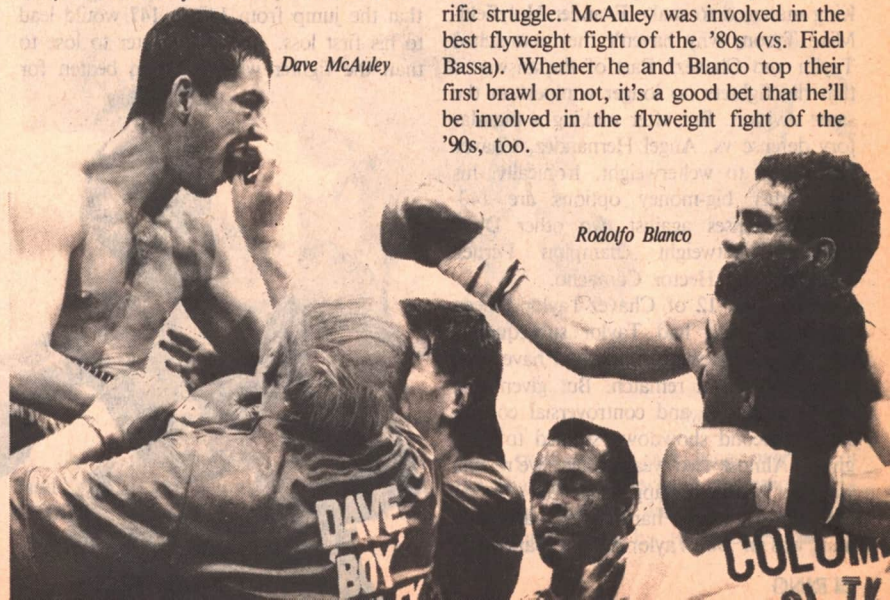
**IBF champion Dave McAuley vs. Rodolfo Blanco:** If you've never seen McAuley in battle, picture Danny Lopez sans the punch. "Little Red" without his rockets, of course, wouldn't have been much of a fighter, which is why it's so difficult to understand how Ireland's McAuley has survived five title defenses and reigned for 2½ years.

Lopez invariably fell in the early rounds and rose to score a smashing kayo. McAuley, on the other hand, crashes in the early, middle, and late rounds, and almost always boxes to a decision. He's been dropped more often than any other active champion—no less than 17 times in 22 fights—and has scored only eight knockouts.

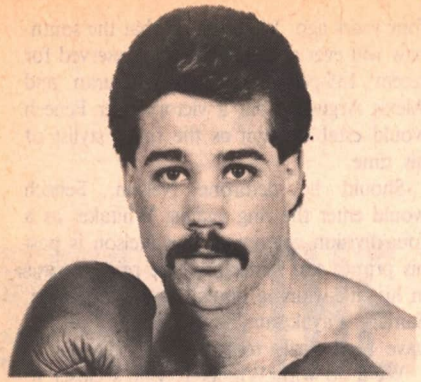
Four of those knockdowns came in his September 1990 defense against Colombia's Blanco, a bout that McAuley somehow won by *unanimous* decision. The prolongued, see-saw action of that bout, the curious scoring, and Blanco's number-one ranking, guaranteed a rematch. The champion has squeezed in a couple of voluntary defenses since defeating the Colombian, but McAuley-Blanco II seems certain for early-'92.

This time, look for Blanco to take the title. (We've underrated McAuley for years; why should we change now?) Expect a terrific struggle. McAuley was involved in the best flyweight fight of the '80s (vs. Fidel Bassa). Whether he and Blanco top their first brawl or not, it's a good bet that he'll be involved in the flyweight fight of the '90s, too.

*Dave McAuley*




*Rodolfo Blanco*



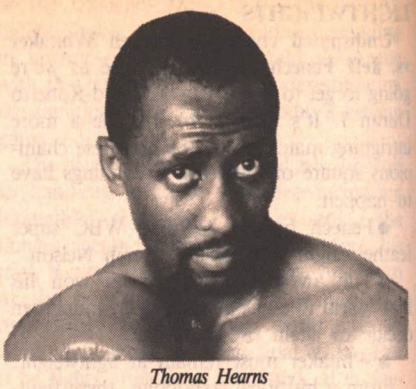
*Bobby Czyz*

### CRUISERWEIGHTS

**WBA champion Bobby Czyz vs. Thomas Hearns:** In recent weeks, we've heard rumors of Hearns fighting light heavyweight contenders Iran Barkley and Andrew Maynard, cruiserweight champions Czyz and James Warring, and heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield. We'd prefer Elijah Tillery, only because the promoters would have to bill that bout "The Hit Man" vs. "The Spit Man."

Anyway, let's return to reality, a move that Hearns has seemingly been resisting. After dethroning WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill in June, the four-division champion indicated a desire to again rise in weight and challenge Czyz. But when Hearns demanded $10-million, it made us wonder whether his adviser, Harold Smith, had shared that Wells Fargo account number with other promoters. No one, of course, is willing to guarantee such a purse, and after Hearns analyzes the marketplace, he's sure to lower his price. After all, at this point in his career, a bout with Czyz makes sense; it will give him a seven-figure payday, a high-profile opponent, and a chance to win another title.

Incredibly, Czyz is only 29. (He's been around so long that when we pulled his file, we expected to read about fights vs. Joey Giardello, Hurricane Carter, and Dick Tiger.) Hearns is 33, but in boxing years, might just be younger than the champion. The question: Can he carry 190 pounds? This would be the first matchup of his career in which, should he win, Hearns wouldn't be expected to score a knockout.



*Thomas Hearns*

We'll go with Hearns in a battle between two of the smartest fighters in the game. He outboxed Hill, so he should be able to befuddle Czyz.

### HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Ray Mercer vs. Michael Moorer:** In November, on a USA Network-televised card from Jacksonville, Florida, announcers Al Albert and Sean O'Grady interviewed Mercer and Moorer. The unbeaten heavyweights shook hands, traded a couple of compliments, wished each other luck, and then shook hands again. It was disgusting!

A shoving match might have been a bit drastic, but a well-placed insult or two could have ignited a potentially explosive rivalry. For instance:

Mercer: "What you doing here, Moorer? This is my hometown. You don't come here and try and show me up."

Moorer: "Ray, I didn't mean any disrespect, but judging by your last couple of fights, you're getting awfully old, and somebody's gonna have to take over when you're done. Which should be in another month or two."

*Ray Mercer* *Michael Moorer*

Mercer: "Listen, punk, you're just a light heavyweight with love handles. This is the real world. Go back to Kronk and don't come back until you've beaten somebody."

In February, Mercer figures to end the comeback of Larry Holmes. Moorer will be available after that; the southpaw's mentor, Emanuel Steward, has expressed interest in a showdown with Mercer. But "Merciless Ray" may decide to jump directly into a title bout vs. Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, or whomever is the reigning world champion.

If Mercer and Moorer miss each other, the division will lose one of its best matchups. History suggests that a good chin vs. a good punch always makes for a good fight. And the good chin almost always wins. Mercer by kayo in the late rounds.

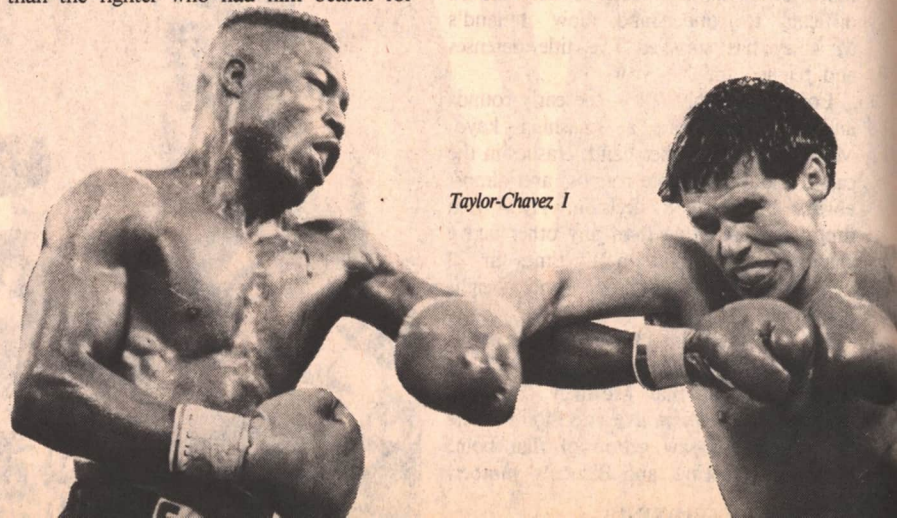
### WELTERWEIGHTS

**WBA champion Meldrick Taylor vs. Julio Cesar Chavez:** If Dan Duva and Don King managed to make Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson, why haven't they rematched Taylor and Chavez? Part of the answer is that the fighters no longer compete in the same division. But after making a mandatory defense vs. Angel Hernandez, Chavez may jump to welterweight. Ironically, his only other big-money options are 140-pound defenses against two other Duva fighters, lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker and Hector Camacho.

Had round 12 of Chavez-Taylor I been uneventful, and had Taylor subsequently won on points, there still would have been a demand for a rematch. But given that bout's incredible and controversial conclusion, a second showdown seemed to be a given. Almost two years later, we're still waiting. Betcha it happens in '92.

Curiously, it's as hard to pick a winner as it was in '90. Taylor hasn't sparkled at welterweight, and because of his lack of power, he has to work so very hard. But Chavez at 147 pounds? Years ago, we said that the jump from 140 to 147 would lead to his first loss. And who better to lose to than the fighter who had him beaten for 99.9074 percent of their all-time classic confrontation? (Don't bother to check; the math is correct.)

Taylor by unanimous decision. Let's just hope it doesn't take two more years for the rubber match.



*Taylor-Chavez I*

## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

**IBF champion Michael Carbajal vs. WBC champion Humberto Gonzalez:** About 18 months ago, this mighty-mite showdown was being hyped as the first million-dollar flyweight fight. But Gonzalez lost his title in December '90. (He subsequently regained it.) As a result, the unification battle lost much of its luster. At an auction, the fight would have to be sold like this:

"One million dollars. Do I hear one million for the biggest and best flyweight fight of all-time? . . .

"800,000. Let's hear a big eight for these bangers, two of the hardest punchers in boxing. It's a can't-miss slugfest . . .

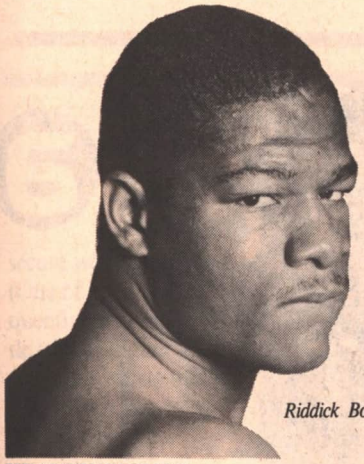
"Half-a-mill. Can I get half-a-mill? The steal of the century. Olympic hero vs. the next Cuevas. C'mon, c'mon. Let's not sit on your hands . . .

*Michael Carbajal* *Humberto Gonzalez*

"300,000. Three little ones. Who says the small guys can't punch? Hey, these boys are two swell guys. How about 200,000, a weekend for two in Palm Springs, and a golf lesson from the club pro? . . . "

Maybe Carbajal-Gonzalez isn't worth what some had hoped for, but styles still make it a top-level unification matchup. Though both 108-pounders can box with finesse, they lack patience and invariably begin to bomb away like heavyweights. The funny thing is that neither one is even the best fighter in the division. WBA champion Myung Woo Yuh is 36-0 and has made 17 defenses, but he doesn't fight outside of his native Korea, which means that to most Western fight fans, he doesn't fight at all.

Gonzales can't be as bad as he looked in '91, but Carbajal stands taller and punches shorter. "Chiquita's" chin will ultimately fail him. Carbajal by mid-rounds kayo.

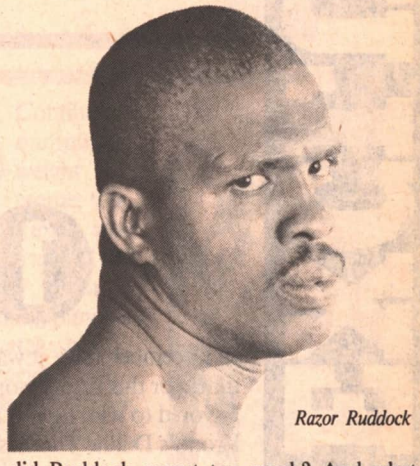


*Riddick Bowe*

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Riddick Bowe vs. Razor Ruddock:** Perhaps this alliterative battle of behemoths should be billed as a tag team pitting Riddick and manager Rock Newman against Razor and promoter Murad Muhammad. Riddick and Ruddock are able to strike only with padded paws. But Newman and Muhammad have both proved to be creative in the face of chaos. During the melee following Tyson-Ruddock I, Muhammad repeatedly kicked trainer Richie Giachetti, who happened to be lying flat on the floor at the time. And as Bowe and Elijah Tillery struggled after the opening round of their recent rumble, Newman, attacking from behind, applied a headlock and yanked Tillery over the top rope. Put it in the contract: Bowe and Ruddock will meet in a steel cage, with Newman and Muhammad barred from ringside for the protection of the *fighters.*

Rising and shining, Bowe would seem to be the obvious pick. But consider that while Riddick has yet to face an opponent the quality of Ruddock, the Razor has already twice toiled with Tyson. Two key questions: By accepting a beating and proving his toughness in the 12-round rematch, did Ruddock accept too much? And what will happen if the Razor lands his left-hand "smash" on Bowe's button? If we were certain of the answers, this matchup wouldn't be included among the year's 10 best. Riddick, busier throughout, on points.



*Razor Ruddock*

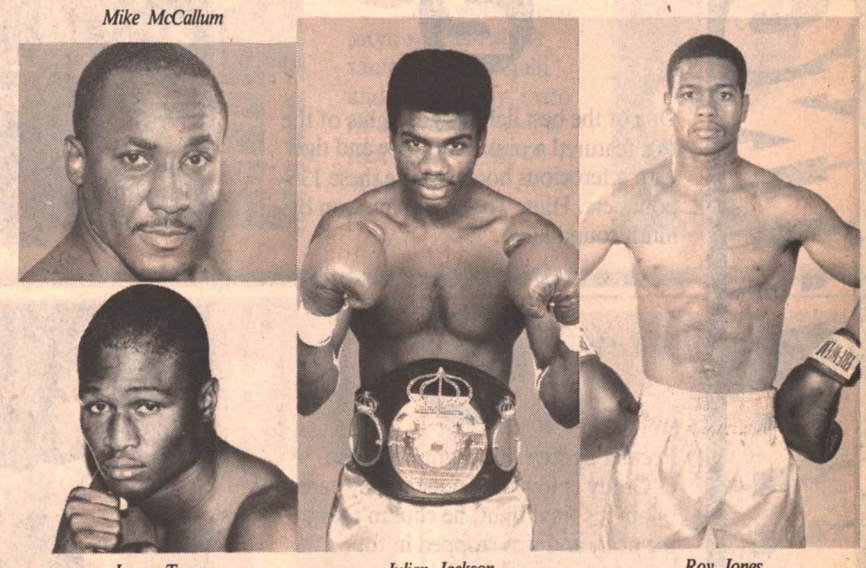
## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

**WBA champion Mike McCallum, IBF champion James Toney, or WBC champion Julian Jackson vs. Roy Jones:** Hey, we had to throw at least one haymaker at you, and we decided to save it for our last lick.

As we went to press, McCallum and Toney were scheduled to clash on December 13. The outcome will reduce this multiple choice matchup to two. At first glance, Jones has done absolutely nothing to deserve a top-10 rating at 154 or 160 pounds, much less a world title try. But he's beaten Ron Amundsen and Kevin Daigle, who both subsequently fought for the IBF 154-pound crown, and Stephan Johnson, who is now the seventh-rated IBF welterweight. And Jones kayoed Johnson and Amundsen in his *second and third* pro fights!

Though his progress has been retarded by absurdly overprotective matchmaking, Jones continues to flash the natural talent that distinguished him from his '88 Olympic teammates. He's only 22, but if he doesn't accelerate sometime in '92, he just might disappear from the ratings altogether. (As of this writing, he was rated sixth and 28th at 154 pounds by the IBF and WBC, respectively, and was unrated by the WBA.)

*Mike McCallum*



*James Toney* *Julian Jackson* *Roy Jones*

It's premature to pick Jones over any of the reigning middleweight champions. His potential, however, will make him a legitimate threat when his time comes. ■

# PHOTO QUIZ

# Test Your Boxing IQ

EXCLUSIVE TO THE RING'S

**Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.**

**1**

In December 1986, it wasn't the best of times for this future world champion. Favored to win, he was tamed by Kronk's Duane Thomas. Name him.

**2**

One of the best lightweight fights of the '80s featured a pink southpaw and tiger with a ferocious hook. Name these 135-pounders. Hint: The southpaw won by ninth-round kayo.

**3**

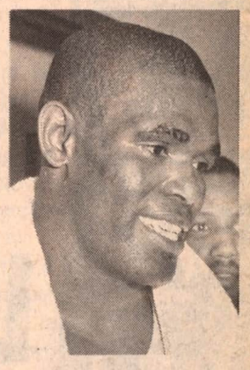
Former lightweight champion Sean O'Grady enjoyed an outstanding career, but in his final fight, he couldn't take the heat, and was stopped in four rounds. Name O'Grady's conqueror, who, though 140 pounds when he bested "Bubblegum Sean," was best known as a junior lightweight.

**4**

The Californian on the left, pictured vs. Emile Griffith in 1972, never won a world title, despite four tries in four years. Name him. Hint: He was a boxing rarity—a college graduate.

**5**

It's no bull that this light heavyweight contender's biggest win came in prison. But he was just visiting. Who is he?

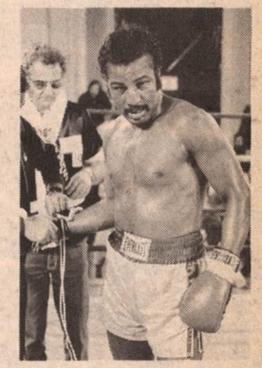


**6**

As middleweights, these perennial contenders failed to secure world title shots. (One of them subsequently lost twice in title tries at higher weights.) Name them. Hint: Both lost to Thomas Hearns.

**7**

Continuing our middleweight theme, this Texan, who was often featured on national TV, was a bonebreaking puncher. Unfortunately, his prime coincided with that of Marvin Hagler, who knocked him out. Name him.

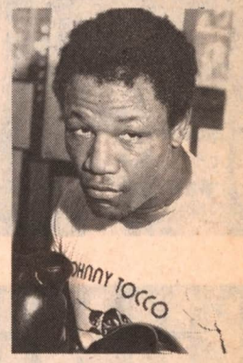


**8**

In the '80s, the fighter on the left provided a lot of kicks for boxing fans. He wasn't that dangerous with his fists—or his feet—but he had a chin that ranked with the strongest of all-time. Who is he?

**9**

This fighter, who enjoyed a brief '80s reign as a world champion, was asked the same question again and again: Why, since he was black, was his nickname "Irish"? Who is he?




**10**

In the '80s, *everyone* won a world title. But it wasn't that easy in the '70s. These welters, pictured after boxing to a draw in 1975, were two of the decade's best boxers, but they couldn't win the big ones. Who are they?

**ANSWERS:**

1) John Mugabi; 2) Tony Baltazar & Robin Blake; 3) John Verderosa; 4) Mando Muniz; 5) Jerry Martin; 6) James Shuler & James Kinchen; 7) Wilford Scypion; 8) Tex Cobb; 9) "Irish" Leroy Haley; 10) Harold Weston Jr. & Hedgemon Lewis

# LOU NOVA:

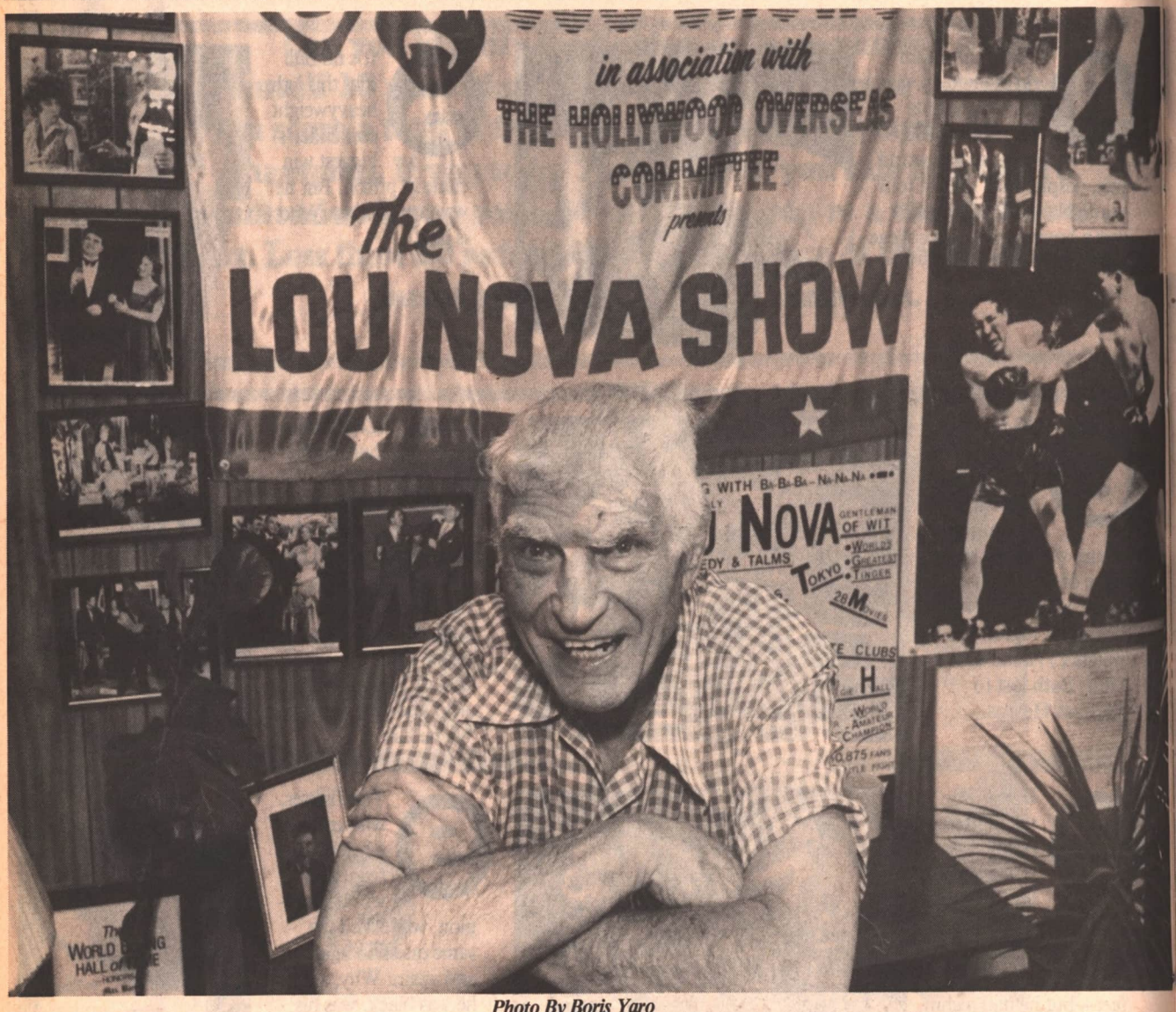



*Photo By Boris Yaro*

# THE HEAVYWEIGHT WHO HAD GREATNESS BEATEN OUT OF HIM

*New Jersey bartender "Two Ton" Tony Galento and Nova square off before their heavyweight title eliminator in September 1939 (above). Nova absorbed a frightful beating (bottom) before being stopped in the 14th round.*

***Editor's Note: In September, former heavyweight contender Lou Nova died in Las Vegas at age 76. This story first appeared in the* Los Angeles Times *on July 24, 1988.***

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**By Earl Gustkey**

The old heavyweight pointed to the photographs on the wall, to the framed black-and-white of his 1941 bout against Joe Louis, and to another picture showing his knockout of Max Baer.

"Max Baer . . . ," Lou Nova said quietly. "Max Baer could hit harder than anyone. Harder than Sonny Liston . . . Harder than Tyson? Oh my, yes. Listen, Mike Tyson isn't a great fighter yet. He will be, but he isn't yet."

In the late-'30s, the 6'2", 200-pound Nova came out of Alameda, California, with a crackling left jab, a knockout right hand, and a dream that he would be the man to take Louis' heavyweight championship.

Lou Nova thinks a lot about the old days. Though a fit-looking 75, he is battling cancer.

James J. Corbett, like Nova, was a heavyweight from the Bay Area. In 1892, Corbett dethroned John L. Sullivan for the heavyweight title.

"I can't get over the coincidence between Corbett and me," Nova said. "We're both from the same area; we both represented the San Francisco Olympic Club; we were both world amateur boxing champions; we were both prominent pro heavyweights; we both became Broadway actors; we were the only two boxers ever admitted to the Lamb's Club [for actors] in New York; and he died of cancer.

"Now I've got it. How do you like that? Makes you wonder . . . "

The morning sun was warming the sun porch in Nova's Las Vegas mobile home. The memories came tumbling down.

Of the 20 men Louis defeated during his championship years, Nova is one of the more interesting ones.

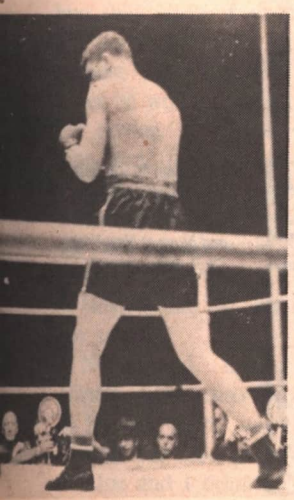
Born in Hollywood, Nova was the son of a symphony pianist. In the mid-'30s, he was a standout football player and javelin thrower at Alameda High School. He was recruited to play football at the University of California-Davis, where he was, for one season, a single-wing tailback.

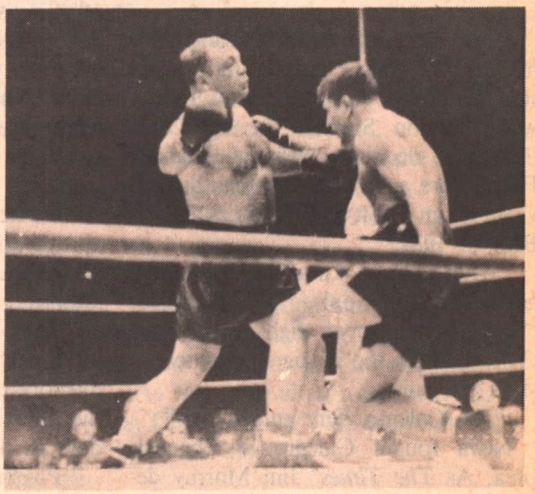
"If pro football players made any money in those days, I probably would have wound up playing pro ball," he said.

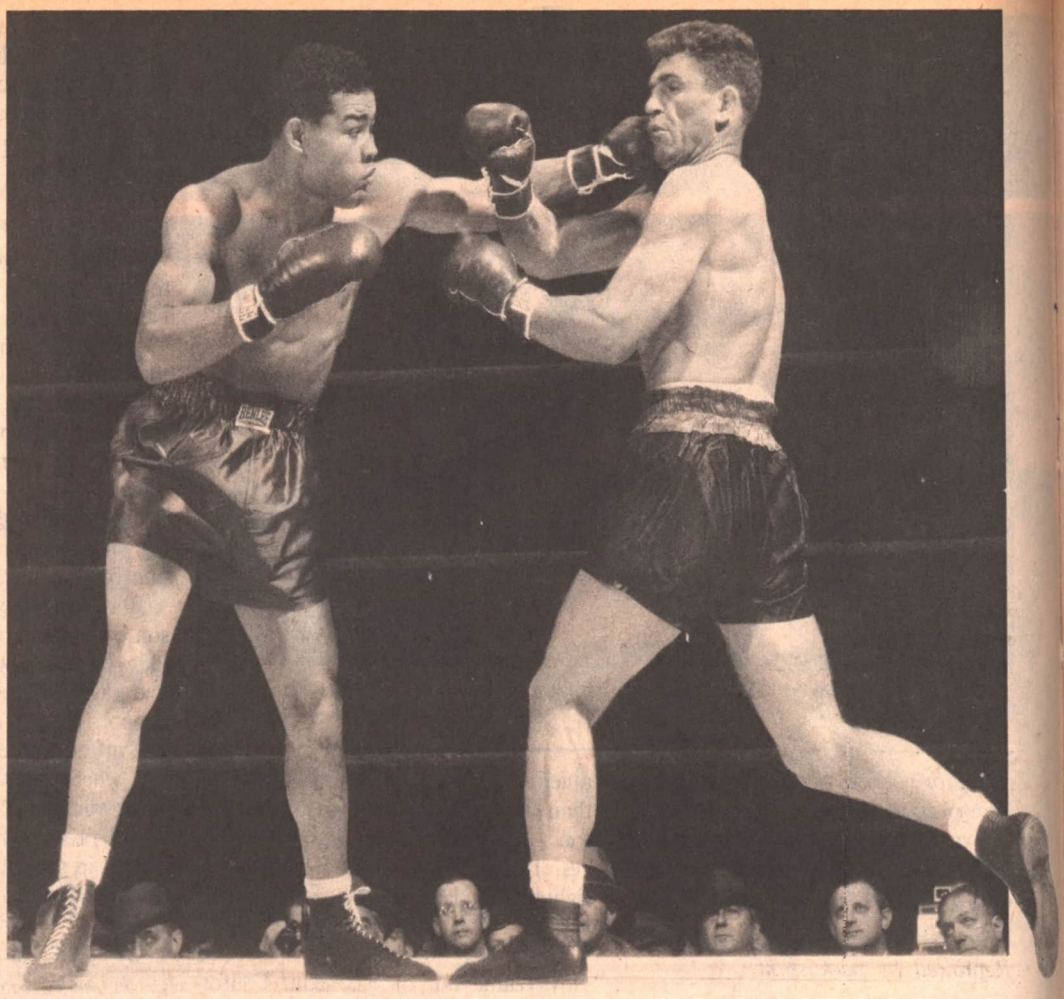
Of course, no one made much money in those days. Nova recalled a visit to a downtown Oakland boxing gym.

"Amateur boxing was very big in those days," he said. "Every big city in the country had thousands of amateur boxers. So I was a good high school athlete, and I figured I could box, too. So one day I walked into Duffy's Gym, around 1935. I was wearing cardboard soles in my shoes.

"Duffy's Gym was in the seedy part of town. The trainer there, Harold







*Nova finally got his try at Louis—and the heavyweight title—in September 1941. He lasted only six rounds.*

Broom, also owned a bar in the neighborhood, and the boxers who used the gym could always get a free bowl of hot stew at the bar. I lived on that stew.

"Well, I learned pretty quickly. I was the national [and world] amateur heavyweight champion in 1935. Max Baer's first manager, Ham Lorimar, was around the gym a lot, and he became my first manager, until he sold my contract for $10,000 to Ray Carlin."

Nova turned pro in 1936 and won his first 20 bouts, until losing a decision to Maxie Rosenbloom at Hollywood Legion Stadium in 1938. He then easily decisioned Britain's Tommy Farr before achieving his breakthrough victory, an 11th-round knockout of Baer in 1939.

"After that, I knew I'd eventually get my shot at Louis," Nova recalled. "So I signed for a fight with Tony Galento, with the winner guaranteed a shot at Louis.

"The Galento fight ruined me."

Nova fought Galento in Philadelphia. As *The Times'* Jim Murray described it decades later, "Galento should have been arrested that night for practicing surgery without a license."

The referee finally stopped it, in the 14th, and declared Galento the winner. The Associated Press reporter described the referee's shirt as blood-soaked "from collar to waist."

The reporter also called it "the most brutal bout of modern times."

"I was never the same after that fight," Nova said.

"See, my trainer then was Ray Arcel. Ray's still around. People think he's some kind of boxing genius. Let me tell you something. Ray Arcel didn't know anything about boxing. He'd never been a fighter. I never forgave him for letting that fight go that long.

"I'd never taken a beating before. I always assumed when you're taking a bad beating, your corner stops it. Mine didn't.

"They put me in the hospital for three days. To this day, I have no memory of anything in that fight after the third round, including the three days in the hospital.

"Physically, I bounced back. But mentally, never. I subconsciously promised myself never to let myself take that kind of beating again. I finally got my chance with Louis. But I wasn't the same fighter. I was cautious, very conservative. I really believe I'd have beaten him had I never fought Galento.

"Years later, people who knew Louis told me that Louis was afraid of me. He knew I'd beaten Tommy Farr worse than he did, but it really both-

*More than 56,000 fans held tickets just like this one to see Louis and Nova at New York City's Polo Grounds.*

ered him that I'd knocked out Baer twice. And he knew that I had the best left jab in boxing in those days.

"Looking back on it all, I really believe I was the worst-managed fighter in history. I had ability, I'd shown that. All my life, I've wondered how far I'd have gone if my corner had stopped that Galento fight early."

Arcel seemed surprised when told Nova blamed him for the length of his beating by Galento.

"I'm sorry Lou feels that way," Arcel said. "I was his trainer, but I had no authority to stop the fight. Ray Carlin was his manager, he was in the corner, and he was in complete charge.

"Lou Nova was a courageous and talented heavyweight. He had talent. At his best, he would've given any heavyweight in any era a lot of trouble."

Louis-Nova, in September 1941, was witnessed by 56,549 at New York's Polo Grounds. It isn't on anyone's best-remembered list. Nova, boxing cautiously, largely avoided contact with the stalking Louis, until Louis knocked him out with one right hand in the sixth round.

After expenses, the 27-year-old Nova returned to Southern California with a check for $125,000, wondering how best to invest it.

"This banker was recommended to me, a guy named Davis," Nova recalled, starting to laugh.

"I'd found this piece of property in the farm country of the San Fernando Valley, near Van Nuys. It was a four-bedroom, three-bath house on six acres, with fruit orchards. It also had a guest house and stables. Remember, this is 1941.

"It was on the market for $25,000. So I asked this Davis guy for advice, and he said, 'Nova, you go ahead and buy that place if you really want it, but don't sink a lot of money into it, because that farmland out there will never be worth anything. If you'll take my advice, you'll put that money in long-term three percent bonds.'

"I bought the place anyway. And when my wife divorced me in 1954, she wound up with the whole thing anyway."

Nova broke up, laughing heartily at the story.

Nova and Louis later became friends. Louis also lived in Las Vegas in his last years, working for Caesars Palace. He died in 1981.

"Joe and I became closer as we got older," he said. "I saw him maybe once a week in his last years."

*Showing off his "Cosmic Punch," Nova clowns with the comedy team of Abbott & Costello (left). But there was nothing funny about the heavyweight's face after his unsuccessful challenge of Louis (below).*

After he left boxing in 1944, Nova took up acting. He appeared on stage in *Guys & Dolls* and still performs, when he's feeling well, as a stand-up comic. In the '60s, he sold a padded, stool-like exercise device that enabled people to easily stand on their heads.

Nova has always had a thing about standing on his head. For 40 years, he has been convinced that headstanding would cure baldness, face wrinkles, hypertension, double chins, disk trouble, halitosis, sinus trouble, deafness, hemophilia, constipation, and tooth decay.

He had a contraption he called the Yogi Nova. He pointed to one in his bedroom. It had aluminum legs, and raised, padded arms where the shoulders rested.

"I sold thousands of those things, for $20 apiece," he said.

Nova said he learned of the wonders of headstanding decades ago from a yoga instructor, Dr. Pierre Bernard, also known as "Oom the Omnipotent."

"Walk with your head up and your heart has to work too hard pumping all that blood to it," he said.

As Nova has always said after fighting Galento, if he's an expert on anything, it's blood. ■

***Earl Gustkey is the boxing writer for the* Los Angeles Times.**

# THE 1980 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

## Great Expectations . . .

By Joseph C. Tintle

*We have arrived at another Olympic year, and as our attention is drawn to the United States amateur boxing program, it's impossible not to wonder which fighters will grace the gold medalist's podium in Barcelona. If recent history has taught us anything, it's that at least some of the winners will leave Spain en route to fame, glory, and multimillion-dollar purses.*

*Floyd Patterson, Cassius Clay, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, Meldrick Taylor, Pernell Whitaker, and Ray Mercer are among those who have struck Olympic gold through the years. Provided with a worldwide stage, these fighters showcased their fistic abilities, and, as professionals, used their medals as glimmering bargaining tools during negotiations with the sport's top promoters. Some fighters didn't even need gold medals; bronze medalist Evander Holyfield, the* cause celebre *of the '84 Games, went on to become the undisputed heavyweight champion, and, over the past 18 months, has earned $40-million.*

*But the 11 members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic boxing team were not so lucky. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter called for an American boycott of the XXIII Olympic Games in response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. After a U.S. Olympic Committee vote upheld the boycott, the would-be Olympians were left wondering what they might have accomplished in Moscow. And today, 12 years after their initial disappointment, some of them are still wondering what Olympic glory might have meant to their professional careers.*

*In retrospect, the entire boxing program seemed doomed several months before the Games. In March 1980, 14 promising U.S. fighters flew to Poland for a series of elimination tournaments designed to help choose the Olympic team. Three miles west of Warsaw's Okecie International Airport, their jet crashed, killing all 87 people aboard.*

*How many of those amateurs might have made the Olympic team is anyone's guess. Those familiar with the team, however, agree that light welterweight Lemuel Steeples, a National AAU, National Golden Gloves, and Pan-American Games champion, stood the best chance.*

*"I still don't like thinking back to those days," said Bernard Taylor, who would have been favored to win the gold in the 125-pound class. "They were sad, sad times for all of us. And it's been a hard road ever since."*

*Taylor is one of the more fortunate members of the team. Though he never commanded huge purses, he at least made decent money—and saved it.*

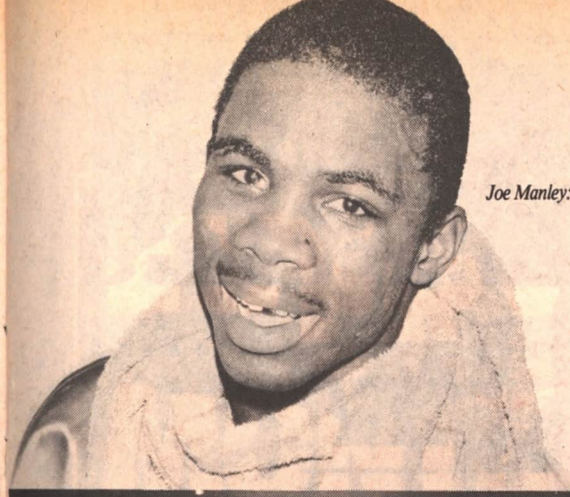
*But most of his teammates didn't fare as well. Financially, all were potentially hurt by the boycott. After the Games, some slowly self-destructed through drugs. Others never made a full commitment to the pro game. Still others just weren't that good. And one member of the team died at age 26.*

*"The hurt is still with me from those days," Taylor added. "And I'm sure it's with all the guys."*

*Here, then, is an update on the members of the ill-fated 1980 Olympic team, and a recap of their pro careers. (They are listed by their amateur weights.)*

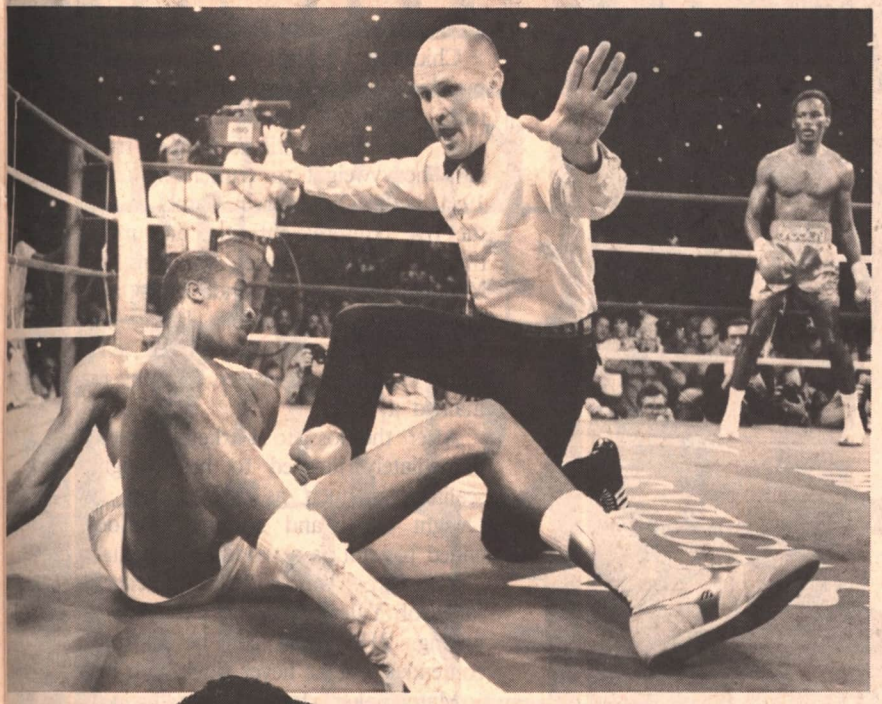
*James Shuler: Dead at age 26*

## Greater Disappointments

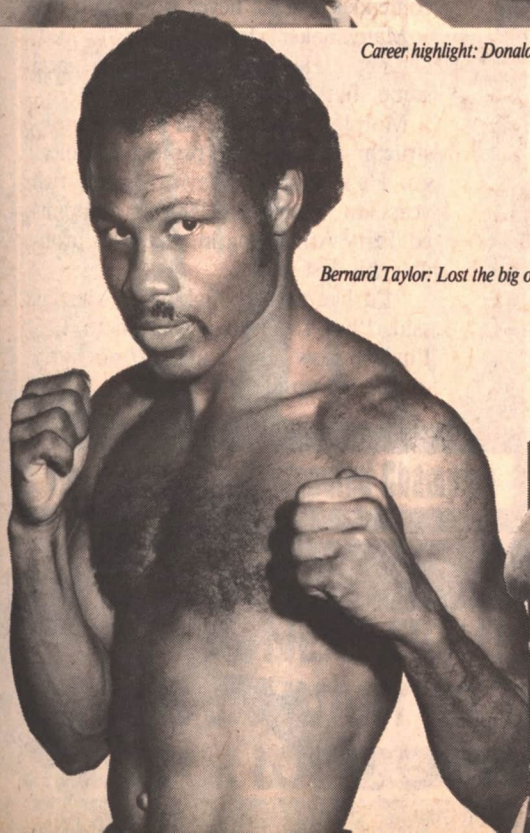


*Joe Manley: Beaten by eggs and milk*

*James Broad: A fat chance*



*Career highlight: Donald Curry kayos Milton McCrory*



*Bernard Taylor: Lost the big ones*

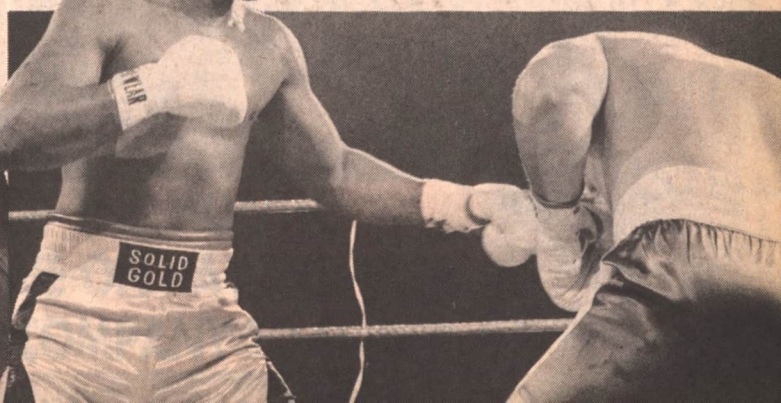
## Heavyweight: James Broad

"Broadaxe" Broad's pro career was a major disappointment. He kayoed Bonecrusher Smith in his third bout, but suffered his first loss in only his 13th bout, to Marvis Frazier, whom he had kayoed in the semifinals of the Olympic Trials. He rebounded to kayo Eddie Gregg in a 1984 battle for the vacant NABF heavyweight crown, but was quickly stopped by Tim Witherspoon in his first defense. That loss began his slide. After three meaningless wins, he lost in succession to Tony Tucker, Francesco Damiani, and Greg Page. For the Page bout, he scaled 261 pounds.

By 1987, Broad was relegated to being a sparring partner for Mike Tyson. According to Stan Hoffman, who managed the fun-loving heavyweight, Broad now lives in Las Vegas, and weighs more than 300 pounds.

"The guy ate himself out of boxing," Hoffman said. "I remember before the fight with Witherspoon, James weighed 228. I had to go away for 10 days, and when I came back he weighed 262. Fans called him 'Broadass' during fights, and still he gorged on food. Now I hear he's making a comeback!"

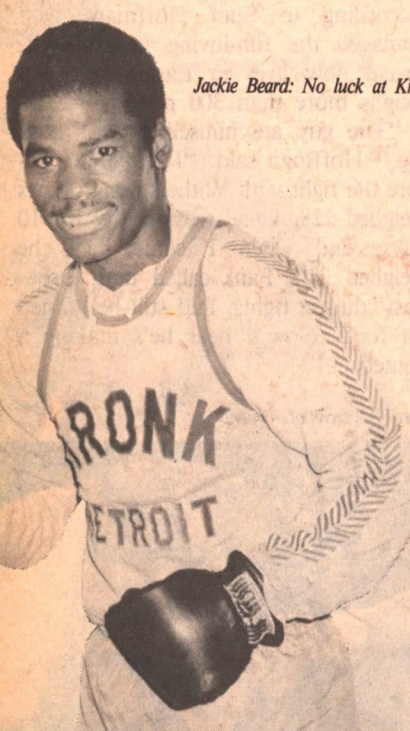
*Lee Roy Murphy: A secret of a champ*



Robert Shannon (right): A two-time Olympian

Tomorrow's Champs: Tony Ayala, Alex Ramos, Bobby Czyz, and Johnny Bumphus

Jackie Beard: No luck at Kronk




Richard Sandoval: Fighter-turned- trainer

## 178 pounds: Lee Roy Murphy

Chicago's Murphy, the power-punching captain of USA Olympic team, advanced slowly as a pro and didn't accelerate until he jumped from light heavyweight to cruiserweight. In 1984, he TKO'd Marvin Camel to win the IBF cruiserweight title, and made three successful defenses, knocking out Young Joe Louis, Chisanda Mutti, and Dorcey Gaymon, before losing the crown to Rickey Parkey. Even as a world champion, however, Murphy remained a secret.

After the loss to Parkey, Murphy immediately jumped to heavyweight, scaling as much as 232. Losses to Dwight Qawi and Johnny DuPlooy ended his run as a world-class fighter.

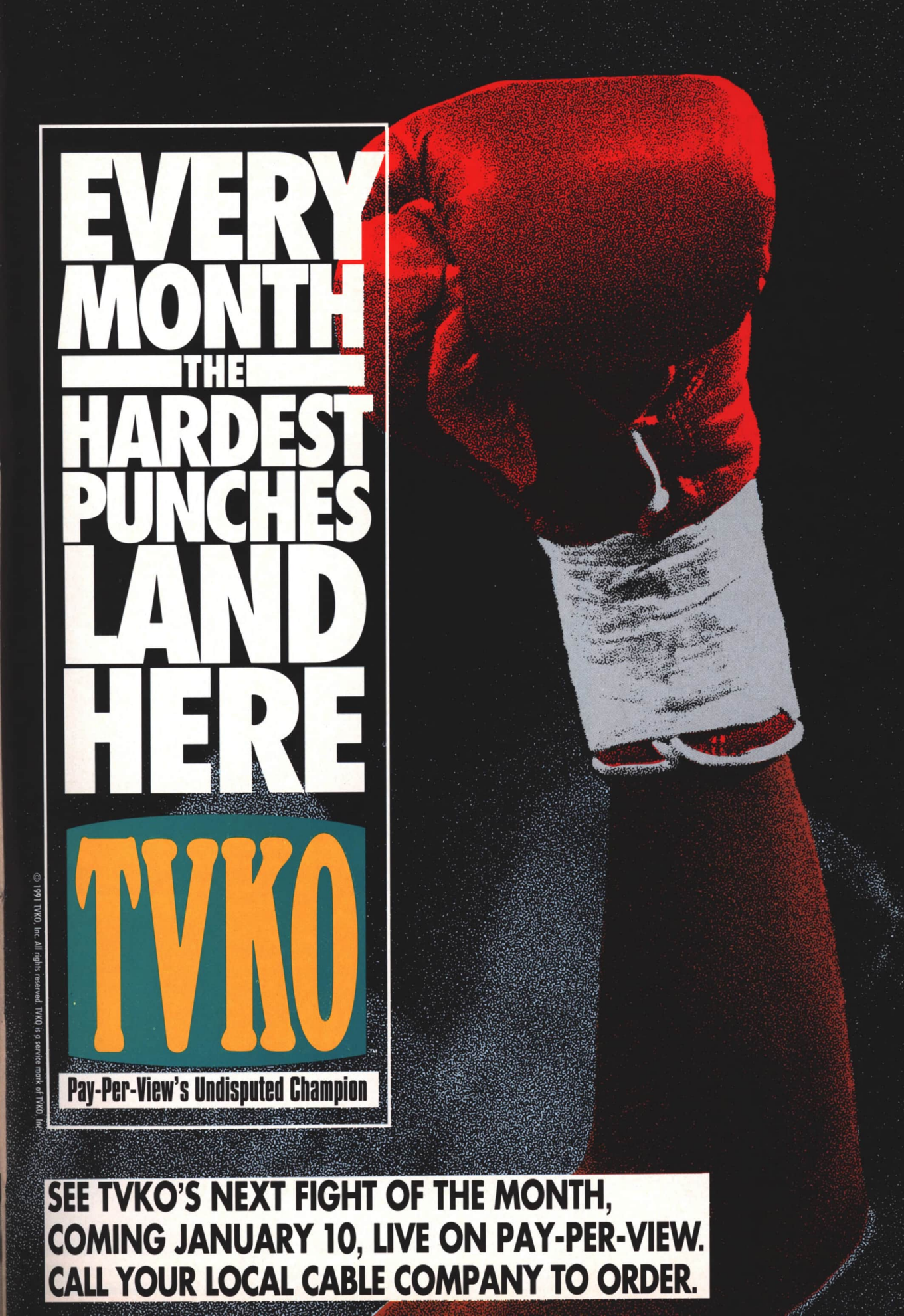
"Lee Roy was a good puncher," said Bob Yalen, ABC-TV's director of boxing. "He could still be a fringe contender, but he never stuck with it."

Matchmaker Jack Cowen agreed, adding, "He always talked a good game, but he was lazy."

Murphy, 33, works as a physical instructor at a housing project in Chicago. He's fought twice in the last two years. In September 1990, he outpointed Terry Armstrong in what was probably his last bout.

"I'd like to keep fighting," Murphy said, "but I got to get down to 195. I'm 238 now. But I ain't in no hurry to get hit upside the head."

*(Continued on page 60)*

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# Flipping Out

# THE BOXING CARD EXPLOSION

**By Jim Trunzo**

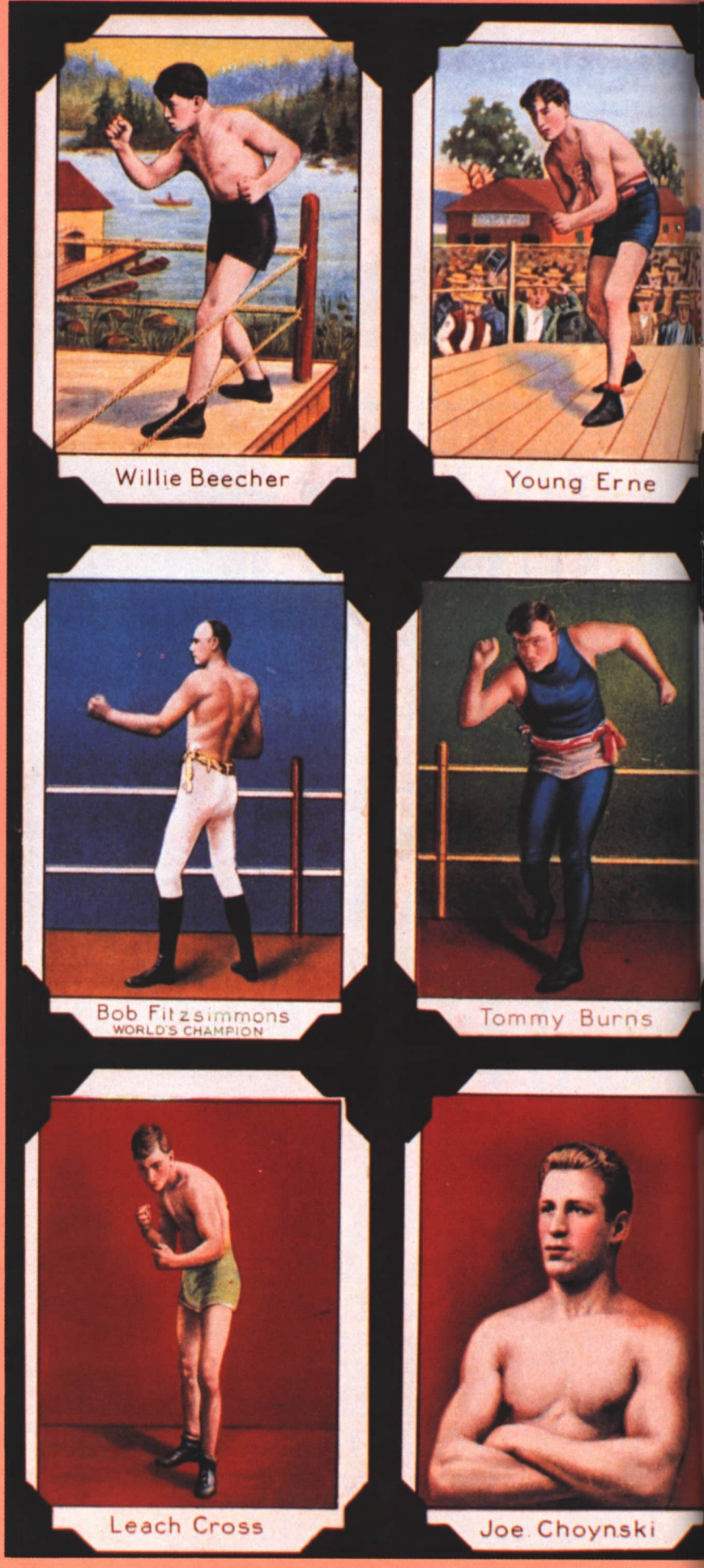
"I'll trade you Tommy Morrison, Mike McCallum, and Virgil Hill for Evander Holyfield. Is it a deal?"

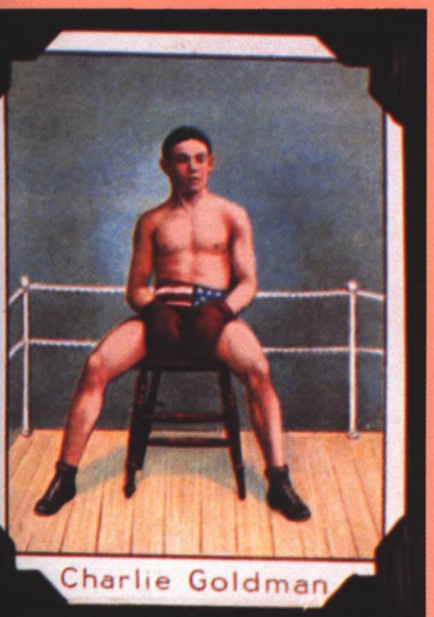
This isn't an excerpt from a fantasy conversation between Bob Arum and Dan Duva, but it could be something you might overhear as you watch two fans sort through their sets of 1991 boxing cards.

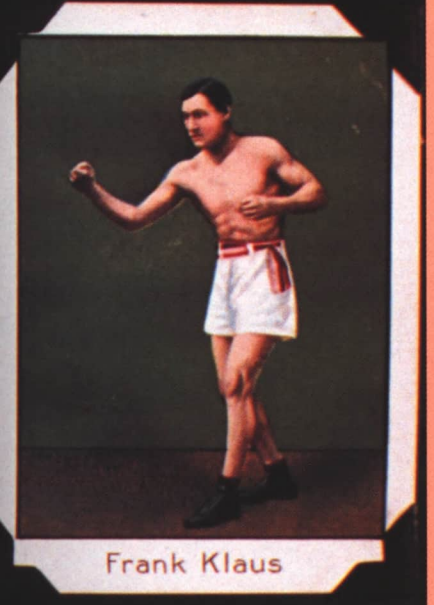
Sports cards collecting has gone from hobby to obsession, so it's only fitting that boxing cards have made a comeback. In the 1880s, cigarette-smoking was thought to be a feminine exercise. (Men preferred pipes and cigars.) To broaden the appeal of the product, tobacco companies slipped boxing cards into packs of cigarettes. The marketing device was a huge success, especially in England.

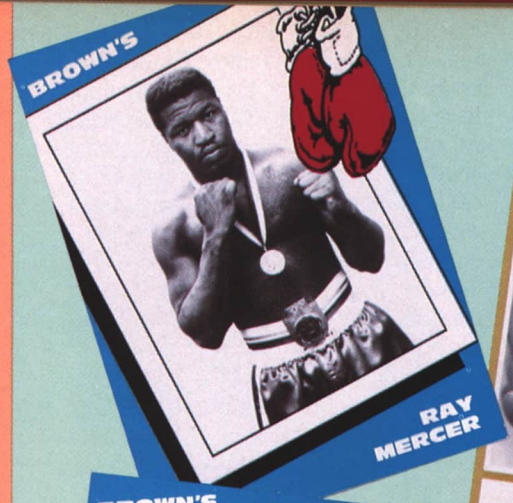
After World War I, boxing cards began to fade away. They briefly reappeared in the late-'40s and '50s, when Topps and Gum Products produced sets featuring the day's leading fighters. The cards then vanished for about 30 years, until a fan, Johnny Brown, took it upon himself to issue a small number of cards with a limited print run of a few thousand sets. Today, Brown has lots of competition.

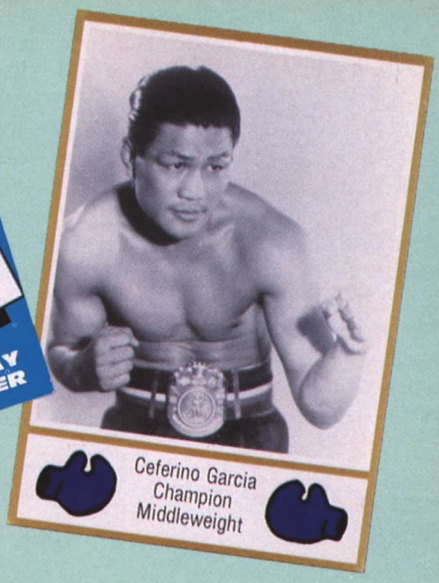
A look at the various sets:

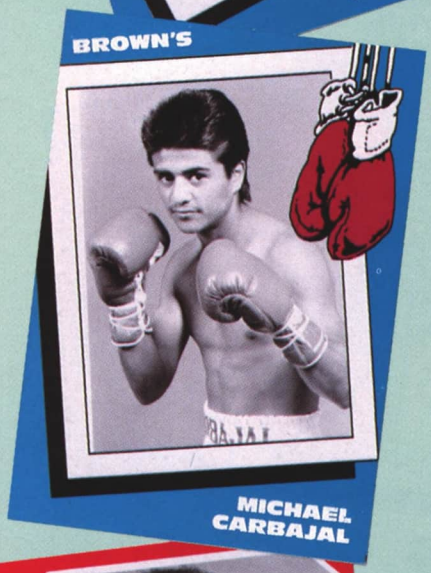




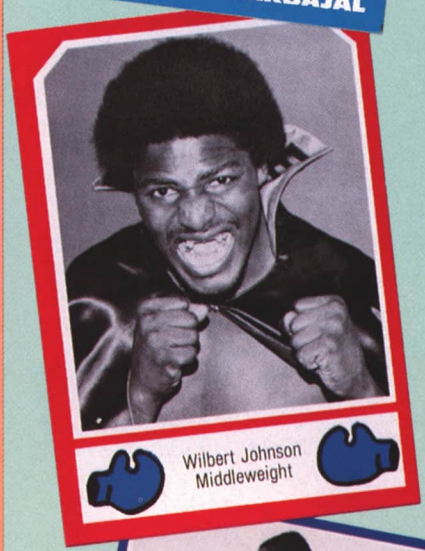


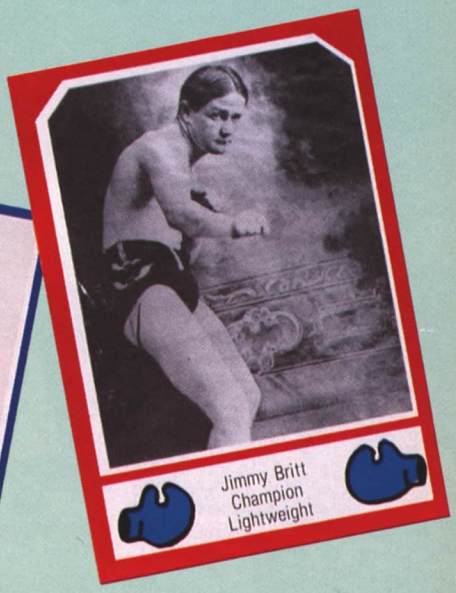



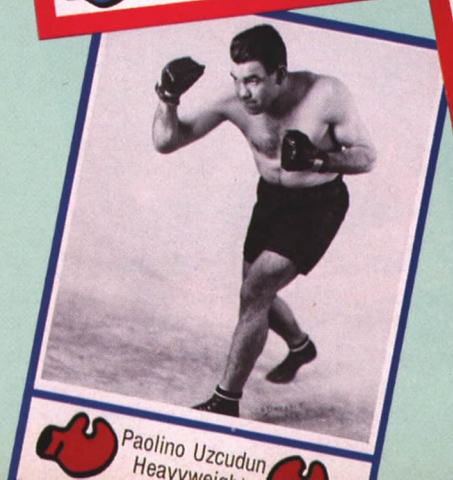




**Brown's Boxing Cards:** Plain black-and-white cards pale cosmetically when compared to others . . . Quality and format vary from year to year . . . Most sets include 30 to 35 cards, except for most recent set, which includes 72 . . . Part of charm is that certain sets include fighters not found anywhere else (golden oldies like Joe Dundee and Paulino Uzcudun, and active clubfighters like Ronnie Lee Warrior) . . . Backs of cards includes capsule biographies, composite records, or fight-by-fight records (depending on set) . . . Set 2 includes several "rookie" cards, including Prince Charles Williams, Buddy McGirt, Pernell Whitaker, Meldrick Taylor, Orlando Canizales, and potentially most valuable of all, Evander Holyfield.

*Availability: Brown's Boxing Cards—P.O. Box 117, Knob Noster, MO 65336; (609) 627-1356.*

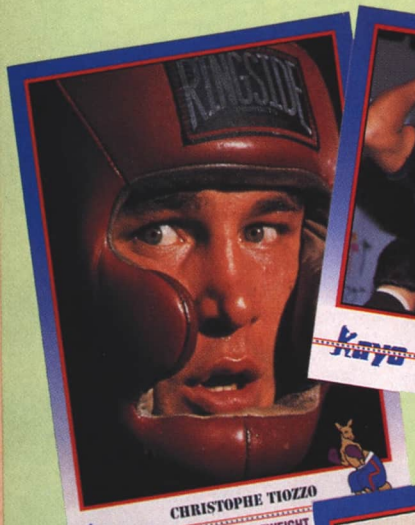


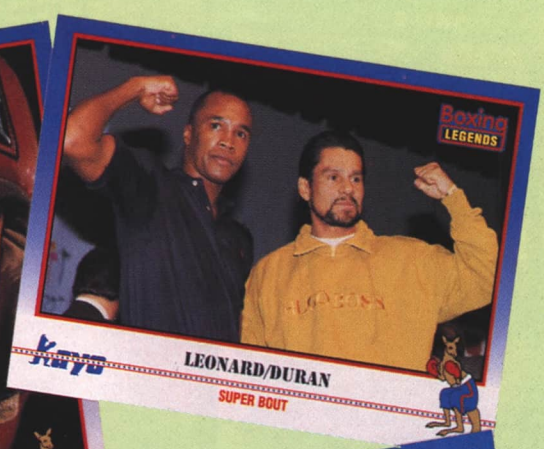



**Kayo Cards:** Seem committed to the long haul . . . First set was 250 cards, and, as of this writing, release of 100-card update set was imminent . . . There are plans for a 1992 set as well . . . Includes basic fighter cards, as well as subsets, marked Rookie Cards, All-Time Greats, Ring Personalities, and Special Interest . . . Subsets are distinguished by different colored borders . . . If you come across a red-bordered card, consider yourself fortunate; you've latched onto one of the specially autographed cards randomly inserted into the card packs (Eleven fighters, including James Toney, Michael Carbajal, and Carlos Palomino, have each signed 250 cards) . . . Quality of four-color cards ranges from good to exceptional . . . Backs of cards, featuring color face shots and a wealth of record and bio information, are best to be found . . . First set also includes two unique hologram cards, featuring Holyfield-Foreman and Ali-Liston.

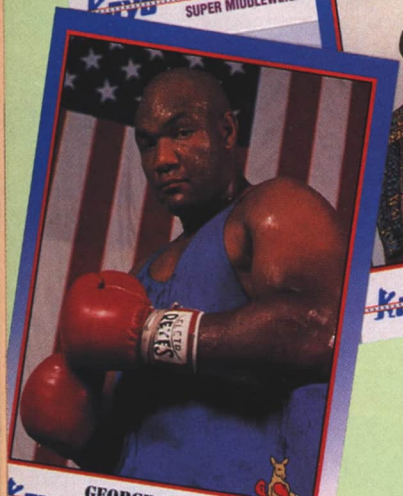
*Availability: Kayo Cards Ltd.—One Meadowlands Plaza, Suite 1020, East Rutherford, NJ 07073; (800) 521-KAYO.*



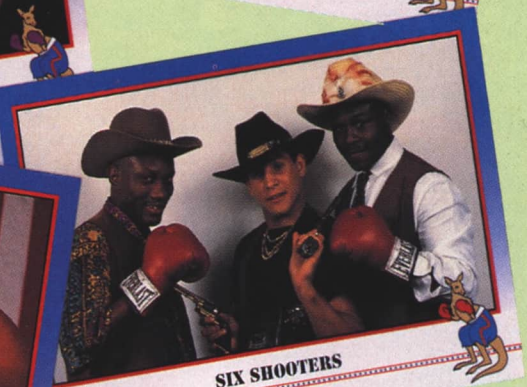

CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT



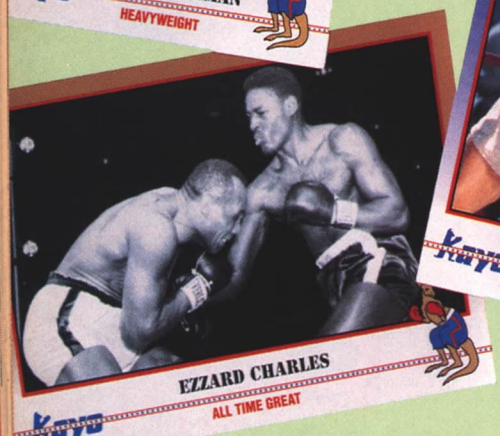

LEONARD/DURAN
SUPER BOUT



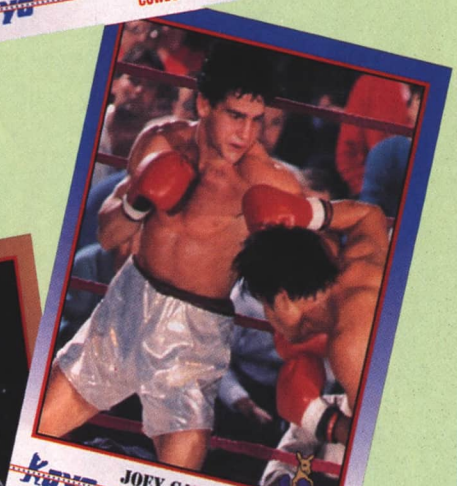
GEORGE FOREMAN
HEAVYWEIGHT



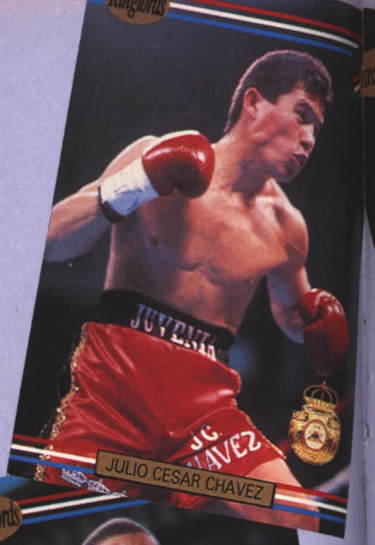
SIX SHOOTERS
COWBOY CHAMPS



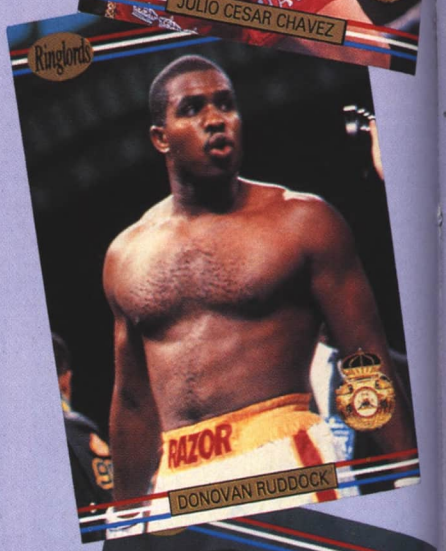
EZZARD CHARLES
ALL TIME GREAT



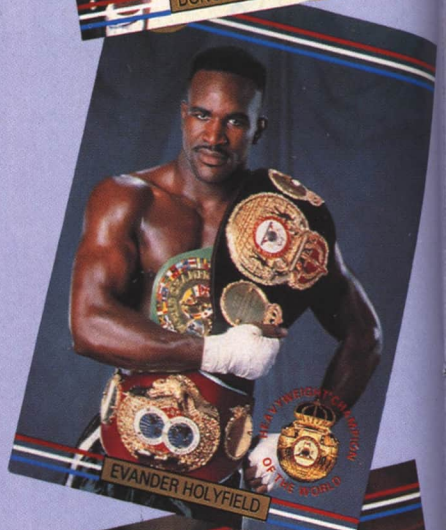
JOEY GAMACHE
LIGHTWEIGHT



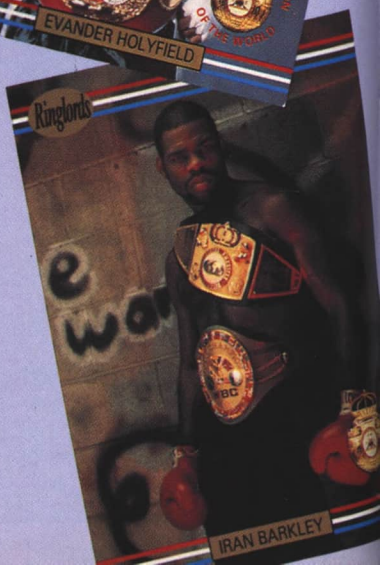
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ



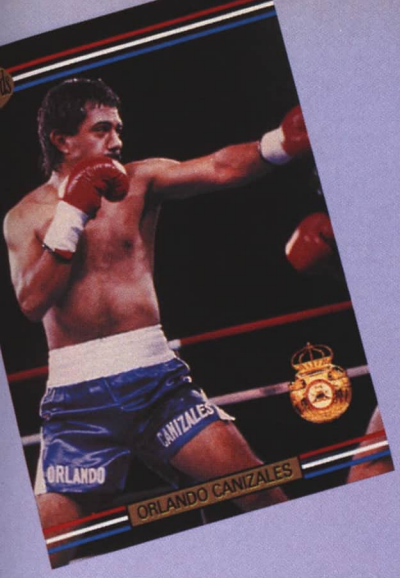

DONOVAN RUDDOCK



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

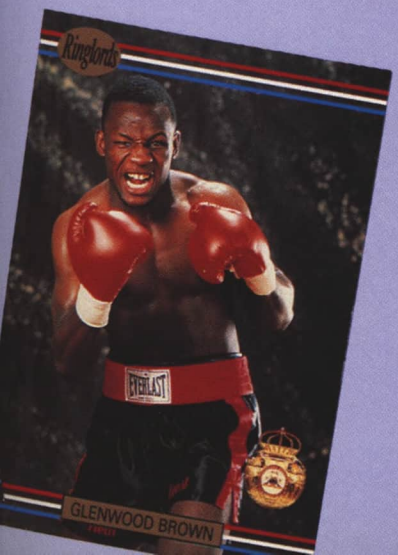


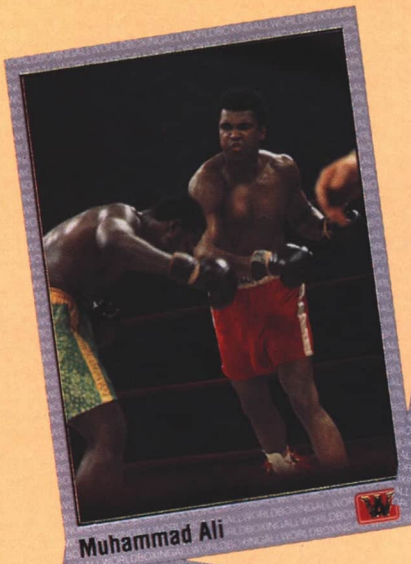

IRAN BARKLEY

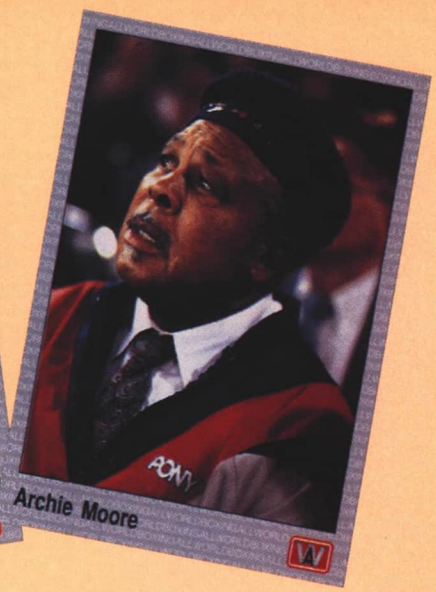



**Ringlords:** The Cadillac of boxing cards . . . Exclusive 40-card set has already been marked as a collector's item . . . Can only be bought as a complete set . . . Each fighter's photo takes up 80 percent of the card surface, making an immediate visual statement . . . Card backs feature black-and-white face shots of boxers in some mode of training or fighting . . . All 40 fighters, with the exceptions of Muhammad Ali and Roberto Duran, are current champions or contenders . . . In addition to the regular cards, 900 special "signet" cards have been randomly inserted into Ringlord sets; these cards are redeemable for an original numbered, autographed card signed by either Evander Holyfield, Tommy Morrison, Virgil Hill, Iran Barkley, Razor Ruddock, or Hector Camacho . . . Players International Ltd., the creators and manufacturers, are considering a 1992 set.

*Availability: Ringlords—International Sports Collectibles, P.O. Box 471746, Charlotte, NC 28247; (800) 964-7464.*

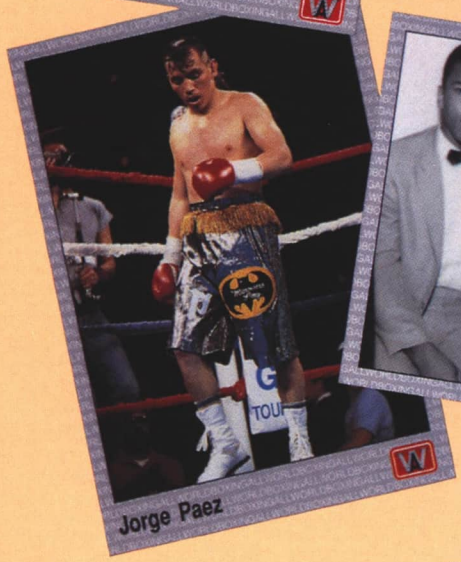


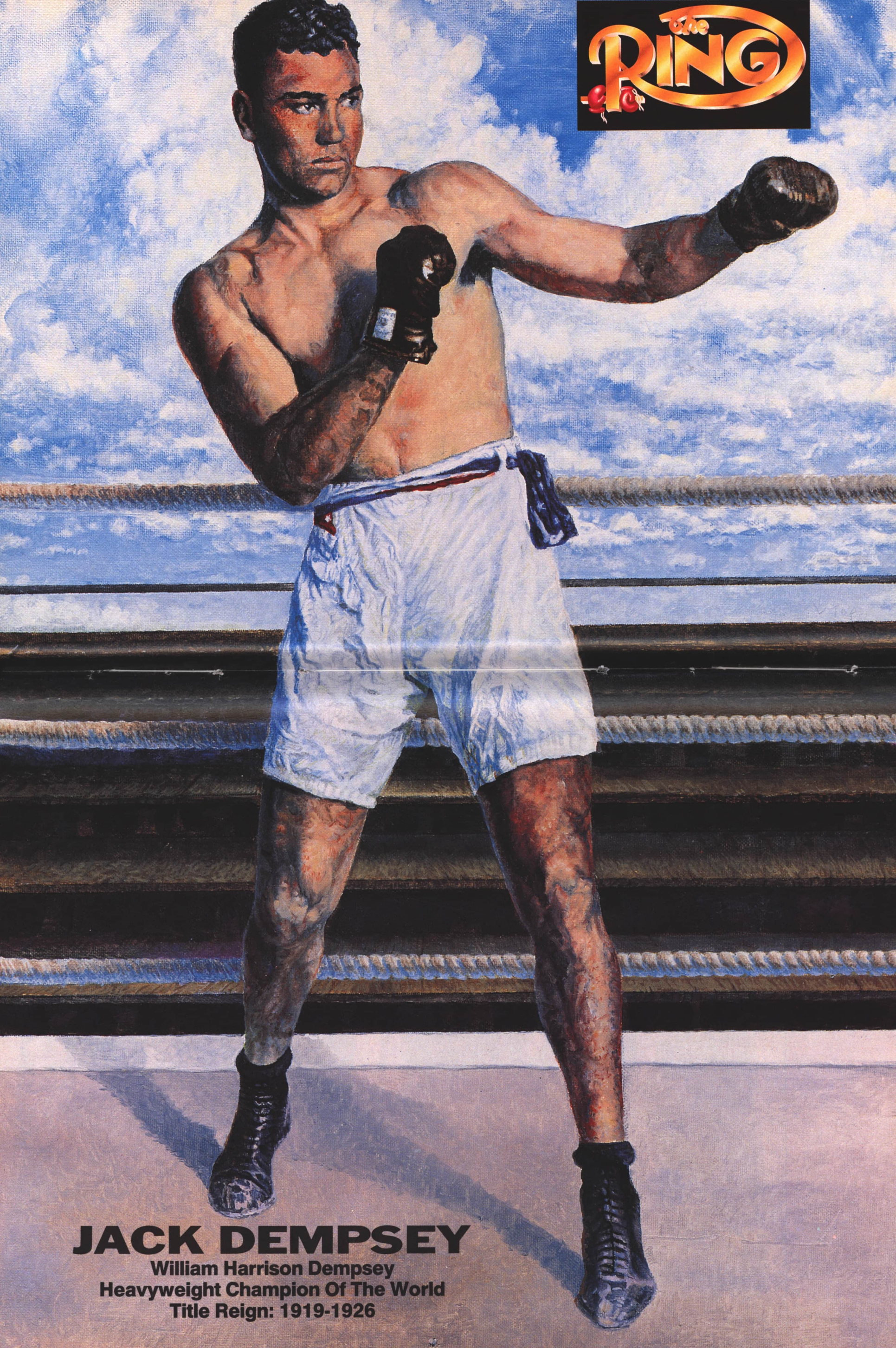
**All World Boxing:** This 149-card set presents, according to AW, "a chronological history of boxing" . . . You'll find color and black-and-white cards from James Figg to Jack Dempsey to Earnie Shavers . . . Includes action shots, poses, and portraits . . . Ten cards feature action from legendary fights like Louis-Conn and Hagler-Hearns . . . Backs of cards focus on fighters' careers, not records . . . No further sets are planned in the immediate future, making limited edition a collector's item.

*Availability: All World Boxing—Available in hobby shops.*



Note: Where's Mike Tyson, the only name fighter who cannot be found in at least one of the four sets? The problem is—surprise—Don King. And King's problem is—surprise again—money. King doesn't believe that enough has been offered for the use of Tyson's picture on a card. As a result, Tyson, himself a boxing historian, can't take his place among legends like Louis, Dempsey, Marciano, and Ali, even if it's only in a set of boxing cards. ■

***Jim Trunzo, who is based in Leechburg, Pennsylvania, wrote the program used by* The Ring *during its recent all-time computer tournaments.***

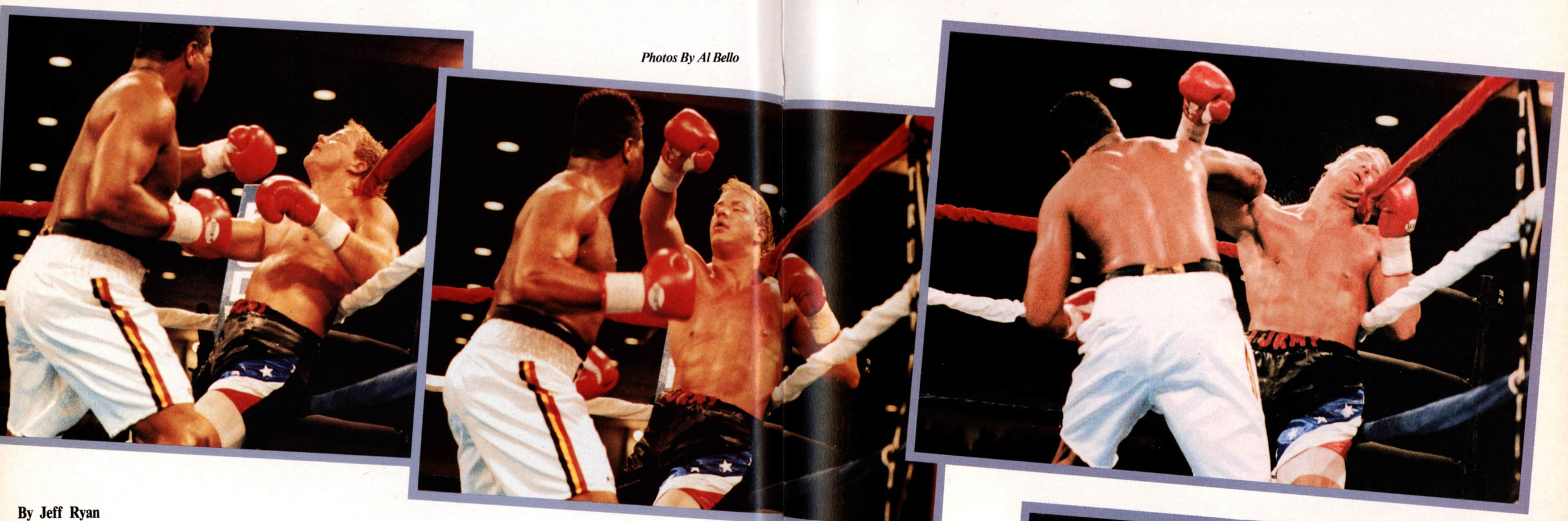



# JACK DEMPSEY

**William Harrison Dempsey**
**Heavyweight Champion Of The World**
**Title Reign: 1919-1926**

# TURNING HEADS

# Ray Mercer Makes *His* Statement



*Photos By Al Bello*

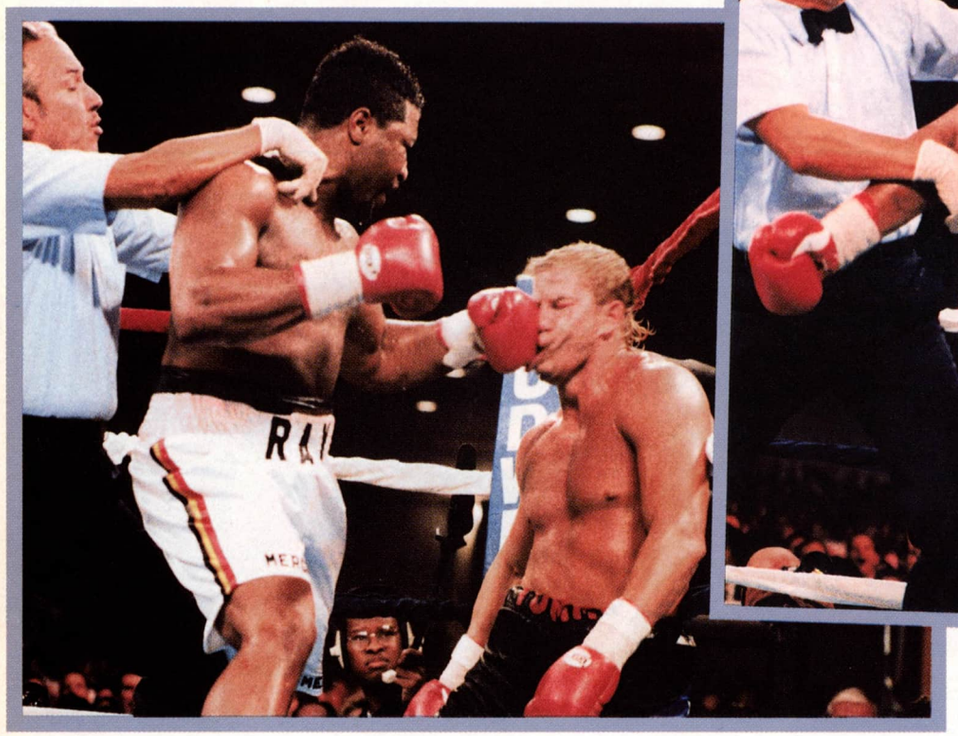
**By Jeff Ryan**

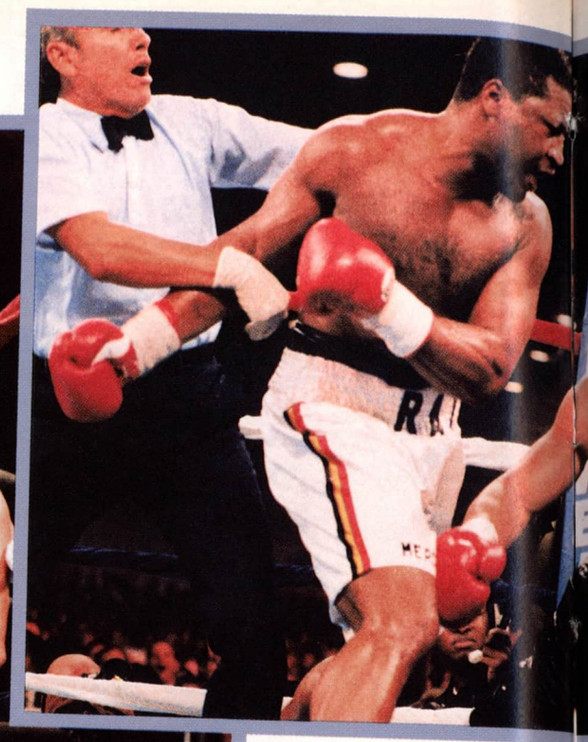
Funny how we've come to expect our tough guys to fit a certain stereotype. In the movies, they have to act like a cross between Robert DeNiro and Steven Seagal. In a hockey rink, they have to look like a cross-check between the eyes. And in boxing, they have to bear the cross of a lifetime spent growing up on streets so menacing, they could scare an armored car into running the red lights.

Our heavyweight hopefuls have to fit a stereotype, too. With the exception of Mike Tyson, who lifted weights, answered many a bell without a drop of sweat on him, fought angry, loaded up on every punch, and got away with flouting a dozen other taboos, a heavyweight can't become a best bet in the eyes of the experts unless he meets specific guidelines. That means owning a gorgeous jab, possessing one-punch power, and getting hit on about as often as Mrs. Steven Seagal .

Riddick Bowe, who departed a Brownsville, Brooklyn, tenement for the world of pro boxing, and carried with him more gifts than Santa Claus, fit everyone's idea of what a bad-ass future champion should look like. So the press has been polishing the throne for

*Early in the fifth round of their crossroads heavyweight showdown, Ray Mercer landed a series of devastating blows against Tommy Morrison. The kayo sequence was a stark illustration of the violence of professional boxing.*





him, and all the while telling guys like Ray Mercer, Michael Moorer, and Lennox Lewis that signing to fight Bowe would be like plugging in their own electric chairs.

Mercer, Bowe's roommate at the '88 Olympics, has taken particular exception to being overlooked. He did, after all, take a gold medal home from Seoul, winning every fight by kayo. It was Bowe who was knocked silly in his Olympic finale, wasn't it? And, no, Mercer didn't grow up in a tenement, but don't tell a former Army sergeant about toughness. Basic training, 12-mile hikes with an M-60 on his shoulder, reforger exercises in the snowy woods of Germany, what was that? The Macy's parade?

Well, there was only one way "Merciless" Mercer could do something about this overlooked stuff, and on October 18 in Atlantic City, he did it. In the fifth round of a battle of unbeatens, he took apart Tommy Morrison with the most savage final flurry the division had seen in a decade. With horrifying swiftness, Mercer opened the mouths of ringsiders and shut the traps of Bowe and his controversial manager, Rock Newman. Their cries for a Mercer fight, which were once as much a regular part of their day as brushing and flossing, haven't been heard since.

A couple of other people *have* been heard, though. The critics may have been impressed, but not promoter Dan Duva, who said he'd be happy to have heavyweight king Evander Holyfield accommodate Mercer in 1992. And not Moorer, who is pressuring the farcical WBO into making Mercer, its heavyweight king, face him. And not 42-year-old Larry Holmes, who sat ringside for the Morrison massacre and still plans to meet Mercer on February 7.

What's wrong with these guys? Make no mistake about it, Mercer is beatable. He's not very

*Referee Tony Perez arrived too late to prevent the final punches from exploding against Morrison's face. After taking a beating for three rounds, Mercer showed why he'll be trouble for any of today's heavyweights.*

fast, his one-punch power is overrated, and he can't box. But it will take a very big effort to beat him, and whoever manages to summon it is going to leave a piece of himself behind after exiting the ring. Mercer is a tough fight for *anyone,* and here are the three reasons why:

● His chin: In the aftermath of his defeat, Morrison was blasted for not pacing himself, for emptying his arsenal early, and fading quickly. But the hard-hitting heavyweight did what he

*(Continued on page 56)*

Photo By Teresa Dusgate

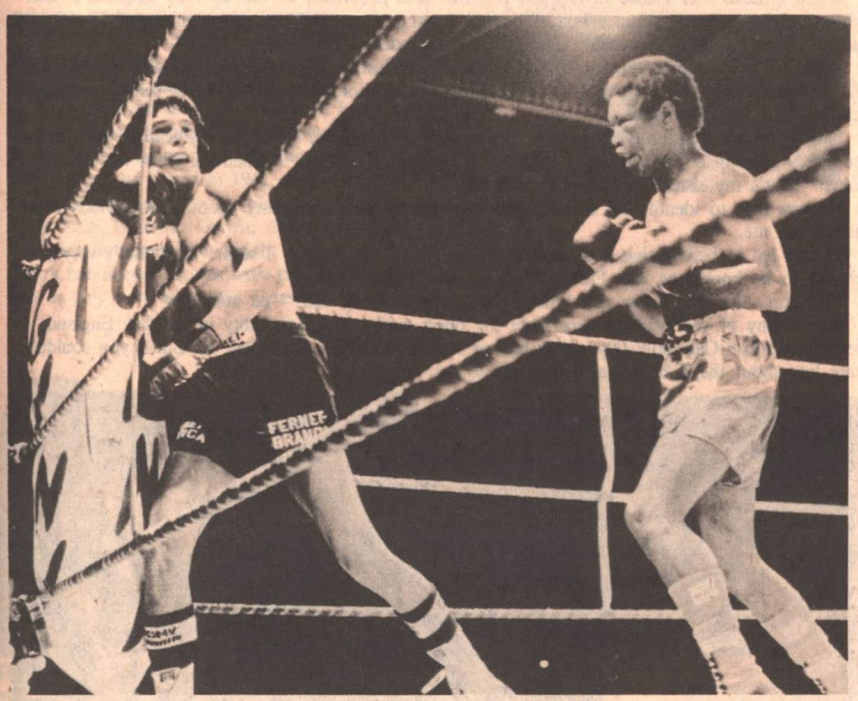
# THE RING VISITS WITH RODRIGO VALDES

## The Middleweight Champ Who Almost Had It All

By James Dusgate

*It is January 10, 1946. By 9 a.m. the city of Cartagena, Colombia, is swelteringly hot, the azure sky blinding to the eye. Cartagena de Indias, the Heroic City, once the richest and most heavily fortified metropolis in the Americas. Carriages still clatter along the narrow, cobbled streets of the walled city that is lined with exquisite, stuccoed houses and carved wooden balconies that pay homage to the Moorish traditions of southern Spain.*

*The waters of the Caribbean lap gently against the shore in the series of small, jagged bays that line the city's western and northern perimeters. The sea is not always so placid, however; these bays were formed when chunks of land were bitten off by hurricanes and tropical storms. The local people call them "mouths"—Bocachica, Bocagrande, La Boquilla—Little Mouth, Big Mouth, Little Opening.*



*"Rocky" Valdes attacks during the first of his unforgettable duels with Carlos Monzon. In losing two close 15-round decisions to the Argentine, Valdes helped establish Monzon as one of the greatest champions in boxing history.*

*Away from the old quarter, in the more humble Gethsemane district, there is a flurry of activity. It has been a good year for Ramon "Varita" Herazo. His best ever, in fact. As the first baseman for the Colombian national amateur baseball team, he had celebrated his club's victory in the world championships in Caracas, Venezuela. Since he returned to his native Colombia for a well-earned vacation, he has removed the gold championship medal from around his neck only to sleep. Today he will wear it to the christening. There is bound to be a big turnout at the Church of the Holy Trinity; by now the entire neighborhood knows he is to be the child's godfather.*

*It is Perfecta Hernandez' fourth child. Five more will follow before the sea claims her husband, leaving her to raise her brood alone. No matter what befalls her, she will get on with her life; she never complains about her lot. After all, similar tragedies are repeated constantly in every society as pitifully poor as Colombia's.*

*Like his older brothers before him, Perfecta's fourth child, Rodrigo, will not attend school and will escape from the hovel he calls home long before he reaches the age of 10. In the streets of*

*(Continued on page 56)*

# Time Capsules

## By Stanley Weston

### CLARENCE HENRY—MOVIE STUNTMAN

(February 6, 1991)

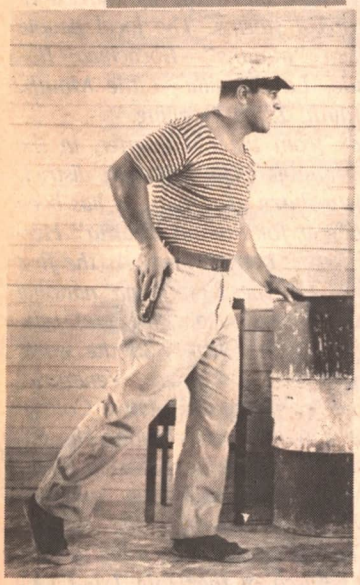
Forty years ago, the very mention of Los Angeles heavyweight Clarence Henry's name sent even top-ranked contenders into hiding. And for good reason; what man in his right mind would want to risk not only his hard-won reputation, but also expose his still-unscrambled brains to Clarence's awesome punching power?

The vast majority of those who did take the fateful plunge did it out of sheer necessity, for they were, like Henry, members of that unenviable club of extraordinarily talented black fighters who were just too good for their own good. Consider the club members whipped by Henry and you'll get a general idea of just how good a fist fighter he was: John Holman, Turkey Thompson, Doc Williams, Willie Bean, Omelio Agramonte, Jimmy Bivins, Bob Baker, and Bob Satterfield. And Henry also clashed with Archie Moore, Harold Johnson, and Tommy Jackson, dropping close decisions to all three.

This recent picture of the 65-year-old Henry was taken in Los Angeles by *The Ring's* special correspondent, Abe Hochheiser, who reports that "Clarence is still in perfect physical shape and doing very well as a movie stuntman."

"Which was more dangerous?" Clarence was asked. "Getting into the ring with Jimmy Bivins or diving over a cliff?"

Replied Clarence, "The cliff is a piece of cake."



### GUNSLINGER MARCIANO

(Circa 1957)

One year after he retired as undefeated heavyweight champion, Rocky Marciano accepted a role in the TV show *Idols Of Rapa-Nui,* which was based on a Jack London sea story. Rocky became intrigued with his part, the villainous enforcer of a smuggling gang, until the last day of shooting, when the script called for him to be knocked out by the hero.

"Wait a minute," the former champ told the director. "I was never knocked out in my whole life. I never would have got mixed up with acting if I'd known I was gonna get flattened."

The script was quickly changed. Marciano would be outsmarted by the hero, but not one punch would be launched. After all, a man must protect his reputation.

### REMEMBERING LIFE WITH FATHER

(November 2, 1991)

When I heard that Fritzie Zivic's son is owner and proprietor of one of New England's most historic and prestigious country inns, I headed for the charming Connecticut village of Litchfield, site of Toll Gate Hill restaurant: Innkeeper, Mr. Frederick Zivic Jr.

When I was greeted by this son of hall of famer and former world welterweight champion Fritzie Zivic, I had tucked under my arm a file crammed full of photographs covering the full 18-year span of his dad's turbulent career.

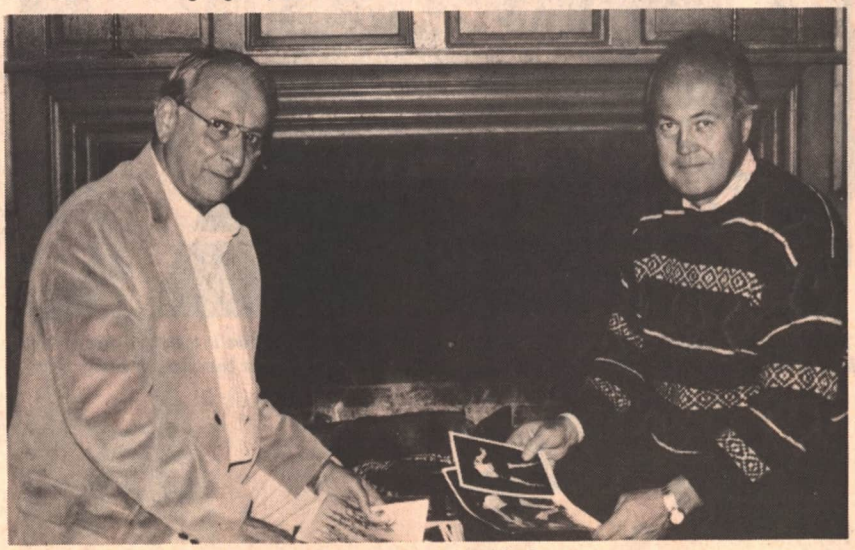
Slowly flipping through the file, innkeeper Zivic was enthralled. He shook his head in disbelief as he gently held up one picture after another, commenting, "Wow, I remember when this one was taken. That's my sister. And there's my mom . . . "

He was able to identify all of his father's opponents in those many action shots, which truly astonished me.

"I was led to believe that you want to put all this behind you," I said. "And that's why you choose to be known as Mr. Frederick Zivic, not Fritzie Zivic Jr."

"Oh, no. Not true. How can I help being proud of my dad?" he answered.

Should any of you want to experience the finest cuisine and hospitality in all New England, I recommend Toll Gate Hill. If you're a boxing buff, you can ask for Fritzie Jr. But if you couldn't care less about the fight game, make sure to ask for Mr. Frederick Zivic.



*The Ring* Publisher Stanley Weston (left) and Fritzie Zivic Jr.

## CONGRATULATIONS, FROM THE FAMILY

(June 23, 1969)

Jerry Quarry was holding his own against undefeated "Smokin' " Joe Frazier, proud owner of New York State's version of the world heavyweight championship, in their title bout at Madison Square Garden. But when Frazier's slashing fists tore open a bone-deep gash under Jerry's right eye, referee Arthur Mercante wisely stopped the thrilling bout at the end of round seven.

Understandably frustrated, but accepting the verdict as justified, Quarry raised his battered face toward the blazing overhead ring lights and walked to his corner. Frazier, on the other hand, celebrated with his seconds (top left). At the postfight press conference, Jerry interrupted Frazier's on-camera TV interview to congratulate him (middle).

Then something very special happened to make this night memorable. Jerry's mother, obviously disappointed that her son was not the new heavyweight champion, but at the same time elated that a few stitches and a couple of days healing would make her boy good as new, walked up to Frazier, put her hand on his shoulder (top right), looked into his eyes, and said, simply, "Congratulations."

The understanding and compassionate expression on Frazier's face seems to say, "This is a wonderful woman. I wish there could have been two winners tonight."

## THE RING OR THE MOVIES?

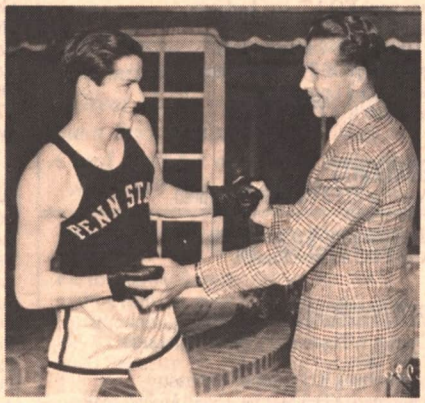
(May 16, 1938)

When movie star Dick Powell first met aspiring young boxer Billy Soose, Powell commented, "This young man should not be risking his good looks in the ring; he should consider a movie career. In fact, I'll open a few studio doors for him if he wants me to."

But the 23-year-old native of Farrell, Pennsylvania, graciously declined the offer.

"I'm set on becoming a world champion," Billy said, adding with a grin, "and keeping my face in one piece."

Soose achieved both his ambitions. In 1941, he won the world middleweight title from Ken Overlin. (He relinquished the title six months later.) When he retired in 1942, after 41 fights, many against murderous punchers such as Tony Zale, Ceferino Garcia, Tami Mauriello, and even ferocious heavyweight Jimmy Bivins, Billy's handsome features were perfectly intact, just as they were when this picture was taken.




## WATCH YOUR TOES, MAXIE!

(May 2, 1934)

Six weeks before he was scheduled to face gigantic champion Primo Carnera for the heavyweight crown, Max Baer (left) was visited by boxing master Tommy Loughran.

"Max, the big guy is very fast for a man of his size, and he's got as accurate a left jab as you'll ever see," cautioned Loughran. "But the thing you have to protect most of all is your toes."

Loughran spoke from personal experience. Two months before, he had secured his own shot at Carnera's crown, only to lose a close 15-round decision.

"Whenever I moved close to him," complained Tommy, "one of those tugboats he had for feet had my toes nailed to the floor. I couldn't move out of range."

Baer heeded Loughran's invaluable advice. When he moved close to Carnera, he made sure his feet were not in line with those of the champion, and he remained up on his toes until he began to tire in the seventh round. But by then, he had battered Primo so savagely that the outcome, which came by merciful 11th-round stoppage, was never in doubt.

## FOUR FEATHERS

(December 6, 1942)

The four of them came together during World War II, at a veteran's dinner in Hartford, Connecticut. Three Italians and one Jew, fused together by one common denominator: All had held the featherweight championship of the world. Left to right: Johnny Dundee, Louis "Kid" Kaplan, Battling Battalino, and Willie Pep.

Born in Sicily, Dundee had 330 fights from 1910 to 1932. Kaplan, born in Russia, fought 127 times between 1921 and 1933. Connecticut-born Battalino went to the post 87 times from 1927 to 1940. And Pep, also born in Connecticut, enjoyed a remarkable career that spanned the years 1940 to 1966. He engaged in 242 fights and held the title eight years.

How's that for productivity? Collectively, four world champions generating 786 pro fights. When did they have time to train? It wasn't necessary. They trained the hard way: in real wars.

# Summary

## HEAVYWEIGHTS
Riddick Bowe W Disq. 1 Elijah Tillery
Ray Mercer KO 5 Tommy Morrison
Larry Holmes KO 1 Jamie Howe
Carl Williams W 10 Kimmuel Odum
Pierre Coetzer KO 3 Dan Murphy
Levi Billups W 10 Bonecrusher Smith
Frank Bruno KO 1 John Emmen
Bert Cooper KO 5 Joe Hipp
Adilson Rodrigues KO 5 Edemilson Tomacio
Mike White W Disq. 5 Eddie Richardson
Dave Jaco KO 3 Danny Sutton
Herbie Hide KO 1 Chris Jacobs
Mitch Sammons KO 1 Terry Anderson
West Turner KO 1 Ric Lainhart
Michael Murray KO 7 Markus Bott
Francois Botha W 10 Tim Tomashek
Leon Spinks KO 3 Lupe Guerra
Mark Gastineau KO 1 Chuck Nail

## CRUISERWEIGHTS
James Warring KO 5 Donnell Wingfield
*(Retains IBF Title)*
Massimiliano Duran W 8 Rick Enis
Derek Angol KO 4 Dave Russell

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Prince Charles Williams KO 2 Freddy Delgado
*(Retains IBF Title)*
Anthony Hembrick KO 1 Robert Johnson
Andrew Maynard KO 3 Matthew Saad Muhammad
Saul Montana KO 7 Isaias Lucero
Henry Maske KO 2 Darryl Fromm
Henry Maske KO 9 Mike Peak
Bomani Parker W 12 Martin Amarillas
Ramzi Hassan KO 3 Martin Amarillas
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 1 Kenny Heflin
Nelson Alves D 10 Saidi Ali
Mike Green W 8 Matthew Saad Muhammad

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Christophe Tiozzo KO 2 Kenny Schaefer
Tony Thornton W 10 Fermin Chirino
Nigel Benn W 10 Lenzie Morgan
James Cook KO 7 Tarmo Uusivirta
Henry Wharton D 12 Lou Gent
Dario Matteoni W 10 Antonio Carranza
Vincenzo Nardiello KO 2 Tony Burke
Frank Nicotra KO 5 Diosmel Anaya
Mwehu Beya KO 4 Massimilian Bocchini
Fulgencio Obelmejias KO 6 Chris Nicoloau
Slugger O'Toole KO 7 Johnny Melfah
Willie Kemp KO 7 Adam Garland

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Lamar Parks KO 1 Ken Hulsey
Robert Carson W Disq. 1 Segundo Mercado
Gerald McClellan KO 1 John Mugabi
Ismael Negron KO 4 Sammy Matos
Thomas Tate KO 2 Eric Rhinehart
Ulysses Boulware KO 2 Sammy Brooks
Pat Lawlor W 12 John Welters

## JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Jorge Castro KO 5 Edmundo Diaz
Jorge Castro W 10 Julio Abel Contreras
Jorge Castro KO 1 Joe Hernandez
Gilbert Baptist KO 3 Ron Amundsen
Chris Pyatt W 12 Craig Trotter
Jean-Claude Fontana KO 2 Hector Guzman
Said Skouma KO 3 Ariel Conde
Oscar Pena KO 12 Billy Bridges
Andy Till W 12 John Davies

## WELTERWEIGHTS
Genaro Leon W 8 Saoul Mamby
Hiroyuki Yoshino KO 5 Koichi Tateno
Patrizio Oliva W 8 Juan Carlos Ortiz
Ramon Campas KO 4 Frankie Davis
Donovan Boucher KO 6 Stan Cunningham
Vincent Pettway KO 8 Juan Rondon
William Jones W Disq. 1 Felix Vasquez

## JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Loreto Garza KO 7 Armando Castro
Juan Coggi KO 10 Juan Contreras
Pat Barrett KO 4 Racheed Lawal
Greg Haugen KO 8 Alfonso Perez
Anthony Jones KO 2 Terry Ford
Oba Carr W 10 Alberto Alcaraz
Rodney Moore KO 9 Alfredo Rojas
Ike Quartey KO 7 Kelcie Banks
David Kamau W 10 Sammy Fuentes
Juan LaPorte W 10 Curtis Strong
Alberto Cortes W 10 Karim Rabbi
Ricky Meyers W 10 Micky Ward
Jimmy Paul W 10 Refugio Guerrera
Jimmy Paul KO 5 Martinez Cruz
Roland Commings W 10 Vinny Burgese
Anthony Stephens D 10 Tony Martin
Frankie Baltazar KO 9 Charles Kirk Young

## LIGHTWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell KO 10 Keeley Thompson
Todd Foster KO 7 Mauricio Aceves
Kelcie Banks KO 2 Juan Castaneda
Jose Castro KO 7 Billy Young
Bryant Paden KO 3 Calvin Grove
Dindo Canoy KO 1 Francisco Cortez
Gussie Olzubek KO 4 Ernie Alesna

## JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Tony Lopez KO 8 Ditau Molefyane
Regilio Tuur W 10 Wilson Fontalvo
Regilio Tuur KO 7 Danilo Cabrera
Yuji Watanabe KO 3 Takeyuki Agaki
Panchito Valdez KO 8 Hector Lizarraga
Oscar Lopez W 10 Roberto Granciosa
Floyd Havard KO 6 Thunder Ayeh

## FEATHERWEIGHTS
Manuel Medina Tech. Dec. 9 Tom Johnson
*(Retains IBF Title)*
Paul Hodkinson W 12 Marcos Villasana
*(Wins WBC Title)*

Jose Martinez KO 5 Moises Urbina
Maurizio Stecca KO 9 Tim Driscoll
Kevin Kelley KO 4 Rafael Zuniga
Kevin Kelley KO 2 Rafael Almonte
Jesse James Leija W 10 Steve McCrory
Colin McMillan W 12 Sean Murphy
Ricardo Cepeda KO 4 Gerardo Sanchez
Jackie Gunguluza KO 4 Sonny Long
Cedric Mingo W 10 Benito Rodriguez
November Ntshingila W 10 Ed Pollard
Kennedy McKinney W 10 Vincente Gonzalez
Rafael Zuniga KO 5 Wilson Fontalvo
Tony Green W 10 Pedro Arroyo
Kelvin Seabrooks KO 5 Robert Woods
Richard Savage W 12 Albert Rendon
Robert Byrd KO 3 Emanuel Fernandez

## JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Tracy Patterson KO 1 Fernando Ramos
Chan Yong Park KO 1 Rex Villaverde
Paul Banke W 10 Antonio Ramirez
Juan Rodriguez KO 8 Arcelio Diaz
Rudy Zavala KO 5 Lee Cargle
Rudy Zavala KO 1 Mark Brooks
John Davison W 12 Sadka Sorpakdee

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

Israel Contreras KO 5 Luisito Espinosa
*(Wins WBA Title)*
Thierry Jacob KO 5 Antonio Picardi
Junior Jones W 10 Rolando Bohol
Guillermo Salcedo W 10 Elvis Alvarez
Yasuei Yakushiji W 10 Rey Paciones
Donnie Hood W 8 Vinnie Ponzio
Daorung Chuvatana Tech. W 7 Yong Chun Min
Clarence Adams KO 3 Mario Lozano

## JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Armando Castro KO 5 Steve Mwema
Armando Castro KO 9 Jose Quirino
Carlos Mercado KO 1 Elvis Ibarra
Antonio Ramirez KO 5 Shrimpy Clarke
Elvis Alvarez KO 4 Jose Benitez
Steve Mwema W 10 Miguel Pina
Victor Miranda KO 8 Frankie Bautista
Miguel Mercedes W 12 Marcos Claudio-Velasques

## FLYWEIGHTS

Muangchai Kittikasem W 12 Alberto Jimenez
*(Retains WBC Title)*
Sot Chitalada KO 5 Jerry Tarona
Scotty Olson KO 3 Anthony Greico
Yuri Arbachakov KO 5 Byung Kap Kim
Ysaias Zamudio W 10 Edgar Decena
Ysaias Zamudio W 10 Juan Akira
Francisco Tejedor W 10 Robinson Quiroz
Rolando Pascua KO 2 Mario Parcon
Al Kotey KO 2 Nelson Vicioso
Pretty Boy Lucas W 10 Finito Lopez

## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Michael Carbajal W 10 Jesus Chong
*(Non-Title Bout)*
Domingo Sosa KO 2 Giovanni Payano
Alfredo Xeque W Disq. 7 Javier Varguez

## STRAWWEIGHTS

Hi Yong Choi W 12 Bong Jun Kim
*(Retains WBA Title)*
Phalan Lukmingkwan W 12 Andy Tabanas
*(Retains IBF Title)*
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CORRECTION: Due to an editing error, the birthplace and record of Mysterious Billy Smith were incorrectly listed in the January 1992 edition. Smith, whose hometown was Nova Scotia, finished his career with a record of 29-19-27 (22), with 7 no-decisions and 3 no-contests.

# Ringside Reports

## FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

There's a lot of Barry McGuigan in newly crowned WBC featherweight champion Paul Hodkinson. Though born a Liverpudlian, "Hoko" adds a touch of Irish by fighting out of Belfast. And like McGuigan, who held the WBA featherweight title, he is a persistent pressure fighter with a solid left hook.

Moreover, at the Hodkinson-Marcos Villasana title fight rematch, the atmosphere was decidely McGuiganesque. Hoko controlled the Mexican from the start, and long before the decision was announced, the gleeful gathering knew it was attending a coronation.

British fight fans hope that Hoko will remain champion longer than McGuigan did. (The former champion made only two successful defenses.) Given the lack of a superstar in today's featherweight ranks, there's a strong chance that he will.

**Paul Hodkinson**

### Yung Kyun Park W 12 Eloy Rojas,

*Seoul, South Korea*—It didn't take long for Park to intimidate the intimidator. Facing perhaps the best puncher in the division, WBA featherweight champion Park, 125½, South Korea, scored a knockdown in the opening round and kept the pressure on Rojas, 124½, Venezuela, to retain the title with a unanimous decision.

The scores: 118-113, 118-110, and 116-111. It was the second defense for Park, who upset another Venezuelan, Antonio Esparragoza, to win the title last March.

Rojas entered the fight with an unbeaten record and an impressive 21 knockouts in 22 fights. Despite enjoying the luxury of defending the title in his hometown, Park, 20-1-1 (12), was the underdog.

But riding the momentum of the first-round knockdown, which came courtesy of a booming right, Park cruised through the first seven rounds and built an insurmountable points lead. He was able to withstand many of Rojas' big punches and consistently score with counters.

Both fighters were cut in the sixth round, Park over the left eye and Rojas over the right. Rojas also sustained a cut over his left eye late.

Park seemed to tire in the eighth round, as Rojas, 22-1 (21), rallied with several hard hooks. Park clutched and grabbed and managed to survive the round.

Rojas staged one final rally in the 11th, but couldn't finish the champion.

(9-14-91)

## Israel Contreras KO 5 Luisito Espinosa,

*Quezon City, Philippines*—Billed at "The Thrilla in October," the WBA bantamweight title fight between local hero and defending titlist Espinosa, 118, and Venezuela's Contreras, 117½, turned out to be just that. The 30-year-old Contreras, 35-2-1 (25), rose from two second-round knockdowns and scored a kayo at the 2:16 mark of round five before 20,000 partisan fans at the Araneta Coliseum. Espinosa, who was making his third defense, was counted out by referee Roberto Ramirez.

As usual, Espinosa, 26-6 (13), worked hard to make weight. He opened cautiously, moving and jabbing in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of his 67-inch reach. In the second, a vicious hook dropped the challenger, and a followup flurry produced a second knockdown. But the offensive clearly weakened Espinosa more than Contreras, and the Venezuelan veteran rallied to take round three. The fourth was even, but in the fifth, Contreras struck with several short punches and pinned Espinosa to the ropes. The champion fell to one knee, and after taking an eight-count, absorbed further punishment before falling again.

After four rounds, Espinosa was ahead on all three cards. Richard Strange (United States) had it 39-35, Fritz Werner (United States) 39-36, and Rodolfo Hill (Panama) 38-37.

"Luisito didn't fall by Contreras' punches," said Hermie Rivera, Espinosa's manager, "but by his own sheer exhaustion. He will move up to 122 pounds, or jump to featherweight."

(10-19-91)

***Joe Koizumi***

*Toney was in a hurry*

## James Toney KO 4 Francesco Dell'Aquila,

*Monte Carlo*—The headlines of the Italian press screamed "SCANDAL!" after IBF middleweight champion Toney was allowed to defend despite failure to make weight. His problems didn't stop him from easily steamrolling Italy's 25-year-old Dell'Aquila, 158¾, who lacked the strength and firepower needed to compete with the American. It was Toney's second defense.

Initially scaling 164¼, Toney, 28-0-1 (20), was able to reduce only to 160½. But the opening bell sounded on schedule after IBF supervisor Marian Muhammad and the challenger's manager, Rocco Agostino, agreed to ignore the half-pound. (Their decision was in accordance with IBF rules.)

While Toney was breathing hard at the midway point of each round, he nonetheless overwhelmed Dell'Aquila, 31-2-2 (15). The former European 160-pound champion tried to box and move, but in the first round, he was dropped by a right-left-left combination. He took the mandatory count of referee Frank Cappuccino and dodged and rolled until the bell.

Seeking an early ending, Toney attacked through most of the second. In the third, he was reduced to firing single haymakers. At the start of the fourth, however, the champion landed a big hook and then swarmed. Dell'Aquila eventually collapsed along the ropes, and Cappuccino didn't bother to count.

This was the second IBF title fight inside of a month in which the champion fought despite failure to make weight. On September 13 in Sacramento, IBF junior lightweight titlist Tony Lopez weighed 130½ before defending against Brian Mitchell. The challenger's handlers agreed to forget about the half-pound, and Mitchell went on to win the crown on points.

(10-12-91)

## Prince Charles Williams KO 2 Freddy Delgado,

*Williamson, West Virginia*—IBF light heavyweight champion Williams again proved his ability to quickly rid the ring of inferior opposition, as he crushed Puerto Rico's Delgado before 2,500 fans at the Fieldhouse.

What Williams, Mansfield, Ohio, and Delgado were doing in West Virginia is a question only promoter Cedric Kushner can answer.

Delgado, strictly a puncher, opened by launching a big right hand. Less than a minute later, however, Williams' crisp, straight combination punching led referee Al Rothenberg to administer a standing eight-count. Delgado, who lasted only one round vs. Michael Moorer in 1989, rebounded well and fired roundhouse blows to the head and hooks to the body. He had limited success, and Williams felt the need to circle away. But just before the bell, Williams, 32-4-2 (23), stunned the challenger, who was saved by the bell.

Delgado, 19-2-1 (18), raced across the ring at the start of the second, and the 175-pounders clashed heads. Williams suffered a cut over his left eye, and immediately escalated his attack. Three consecutive rights backed Delgado to the ropes, and after another flurry drove the overmatched Puerto Rican to the other side of the ring, Rothenberg stepped in. The time of the stoppage was 2:24.

Williams' next defense will come against former middleweight champion Frank Tate in Paris.

(10-19-91)

## Yong Kang Kim W 12 Leo Gamez,

*Inchon, South Korea*—Speedy stylist Kim, 111¾, retained the WBA flyweight crown for the first time, scoring a close but unanimous decision over Venezuelan powerpuncher Gamez, 110¾, before 5,000 fans at the Inchon Gymnasium. Scoring: Elias Quintana (United States) and Hector Hernandez (Mexico), both 116-114, and Hiroyuki Tezaki (Japan), 115-113. Referee: Julio Cesar Alvarado (Panama).

Kim began by moving and boxing, and by the second round, Gamez, a former WBA strawweight champion, was bleeding from a cut under the left eyebrow. The local favorite could have dominated by outmaneuvering his 5'1" foe, but in an effort to please the crowd, he began to trade punches. Gamez took the fifth and sixth, and the second half of the bout was competitive. Kim reverted to his hit-and-run tactics and captured the seventh, ninth, and 10th rounds. His rally clinched the victory.

Kim is 24-3 (10). Gamez, who hadn't fought in 11 months, dropped to 20-3 (14). His two other losses have come in title fights against WBA junior flyweight champion Myung Woo Yuh.

(10-5-91)

***Joe Koizumi***

## Paul Hodkinson W 12 Marcos Villasana,

*Belfast, Northern Ireland*—In his first try for the WBC featherweight title, Hodkinson won the first seven rounds against defending titlist Villasana, but was stopped in the eighth, largely due to a pair of bloody and swollen eyes. His revenge came 17 months later at the Maysfield Leisure Centre.

From the opening bell, Liverpool's Hodkinson, who fights out of Belfast, showed the ability to box behind his jab and then switch to his characteristically aggressive infighting style. There was danger in the second round, when "Hoko" was marked under his right eye. The cut gradually worsened, but never affected his workrate.

Scoring often with his hook, the challenger controlled most of the early rounds. In the sixth, he pounded the Mexican to both the head and body and seemed on the verge of a stoppage victory. But once more, the remarkable chin of Villasana, 54-8-2 (46), saw him through.

Villasana, who reportedly had trouble making weight, never threatened to make a comeback. At the start of the 12th, he nodded and offered half a smile to Hoko, seemingly in acknowledgement of his conqueror's superiority. After 12 one-sided rounds, the decision was unanimous: 119-109, 119-111, and 119-114. It was Villasana's fourth defense.

Hoko, 19-1-1 (18), may soon defend against slick-boxing British featherweight champion Colin McMillan.

(11-13-91)

***David Kelly***

*Medina was a bloody winner*

## Manuel Medina Tech. Dec. 9 Tom Johnson,

*Inglewood, California*—IBF featherweight champion Medina became only the second world titlist of the last eight to successfully defend his title at the Great Western Forum. A close and exciting contest came to an abrupt close when an accidental headbutt opened a cut at the corner of Medina's left brow. Dr. Robert Karns immediately advised a halt at 1:35 of the ninth round. According to IBF rules, because half the rounds had been completed, the cards were totaled, and Medina escaped by unanimous technical decision. Scores: 79-75 (Fritz Werner), 78-74 (Mike Glienna), and 76-75 (Tom McDonagh).

Medina, 125¾, Tijuana, Mexico, started well, scoring at long range with jabs. Johnson's punches fell short, but in the third, he began to inch closer and find a comfortable range.

In the fifth, Medina suddenly switched his attack to the body. (Two low blows went unnoticed by referee Lou Moret.) Mandatory challenger Johnson, 125½, Detroit, seemed fatigued, and in the last minute of the sixth, the challenger was backed to the ropes, where he sustained a pounding. At that point, Moret seemed on the verge of stepping in.

Medina, 40-3 (18), was penalized a point in the seventh, when he downed Johnson, 26-2-1 (18), with a low right hand. The infraction seemingly inspired the challenger, who rebounded aggressively to take the eighth.

"If you go down and get up,' Johnson explained, "you're more of a man than before you went down."

Johnson was continuing his rally when the featherweights clashed heads in the ninth. At the postfight press conference, the challenger said that at the time of the stoppage, he was en route to victory.

Medina, who injured his right hand in training, said that if rematched with Johnson, he will win by kayo.

(11-18-91)

***David Wood***

## Muangchai Kittikasem W 12 Alberto Jimenez,

*Bangkok, Thailand*—WBC flyweight champion Kittikasem, 112, survived a third-round knockdown, stuck to his hit-and-run tactics, and scored a majority decision over hard-punching Mexican Jimenez, 112. Scores: Larry O'Connell (England), 115-114; Jerry Roth (United States), 117-110; Marty Sammon (United States), 114-114. It was local hero Kittikasem's second defense.

The 22-year-old Jimenez applied pressure throughout. In the third, he connected with a solid right cross that sent the champion to the canvas. After beating the count of referee Lou Filippo, Kittikasem was groggy. But he managed to last the round.

Jimenez clearly won the fourth, fifth, and sixth, but over the second half of the bout, and especially in the 11th and 12th, Kittikasem dominated with jabs and movement.

As champion, Kittikasem, who held the IBF junior flyweight title in 1989 and 1990, has been living on the edge. In his first defense, he came from behind in May to stop Jung Koo Chang in the final round.

Jimenez had been rated fifth.

(10-25-91)

***Joe Koizumi***

## Hi Yong Choi W 12 Bong Jun Kim,

*Seoul, South Korea*—WBA minimumweight champion Choi, 104½, retained the crown for the second time with a clear and unanimous decision over countryman and former champion Kim, 104¼. Scoring: Larry Rozadilla (United States) and Federico Vollmer (Venezuela), 118-111; Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico), 117-112.

Stanley Christodoulou was the referee.

Choi, a short and skinny speedster, won the crown in February by scoring a disputed decision over Kim. The WBA ordered this rematch.

Kim, 23-7-3 (10), struggled to make weight, and he seemed weakened. Choi, 12-0 (5), controlled the fight throughout, moving, jabbing, and piling up points with counter rights. Kim never threatened.

(10-26-91)

***Joe Koizumi*** ■

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## Ray Mercer

*(Continued from page 45)*

had to do. He landed crunching uppercuts to the chin and scored numerous times with one of the two or three best hooks in boxing. Against anyone's chin, that recipe wins. Of course, Mercer doesn't have anyone's chin.

Not only did he absorb Morrison's bombs, he barely even teetered. Mercer also endured the shots of Bert Cooper and Francesco Damiani, fighters who may not be murderous punchers, but nonetheless repeatedly landed flush to his face.

Holyfield's lack of kayo power suggests that the champion will have to outbox Mercer or become embroiled in a brutal war of attrition. Tyson, Ruddock, Foreman, and Moorer all carry pop, but none will dispatch Mercer with just a punch or two. Mercer will be upright, and thus extremely dangerous, for several rounds.

The strength of his jaw has convinced us of that, so consider it written in concrete.

● **His heart:** Any rising contender looks good when he's dominating the action, but a true test of his makeup is how he fares in those helpless moments when he's swallowing blood, gasping for air, and wondering if opening a 7-Eleven might have been a better career choice.

Mercer has had those moments in three fights, but overcome them each time. He fought most of the Cooper bout with a jaw so swollen that it looked like he'd had his wisdom teeth removed with a chainsaw by Drs. Black & Decker. Against Damiani, he was being outboxed and humiliated by a guy many observers laughed at when they first saw him at a prefight press conference. And Morrison was treating Mercer's inviting chin like it was a letter-high changeup being served again and again in a batting cage.

Had he been inclined to quit, or reduce himself to the role of survivor, Mercer would have done so in one of those fights. Instead, he acted like the Energizer rabbit with an attitude.

● **His resiliency:** Mercer outworked Cooper at crunch time, landed a miraculous punch to the tip of Damiani's nose to render the scorecards meaningless, and created the punching distance needed to swing the momentum against Morrison.

Holyfield, Tyson, Foreman, and company can't depend on Mercer setting a certain pace, executing a particular strategy, or responding to a given situation in a predictable way. Mercer adapts as well as any heavyweight in the world. For a guy with such limited natural ability, he sure finds a way to get it done, doesn't he?

Those remaining Mercer critics will be quick to point out that in some cases, like the desperation stoppage of Damiani, luck played a major role. Mercer has admitted as much. But the toughness of an Army sergeant can only get you so far.

It doesn't hurt to be a soldier of fortune, as well. ■

## Rodrigo Valdes

*(Continued from page 47)*

*the city, life lays in wait, ready to devour him, but he is a resourceful boy who will soon learn to hustle his food*


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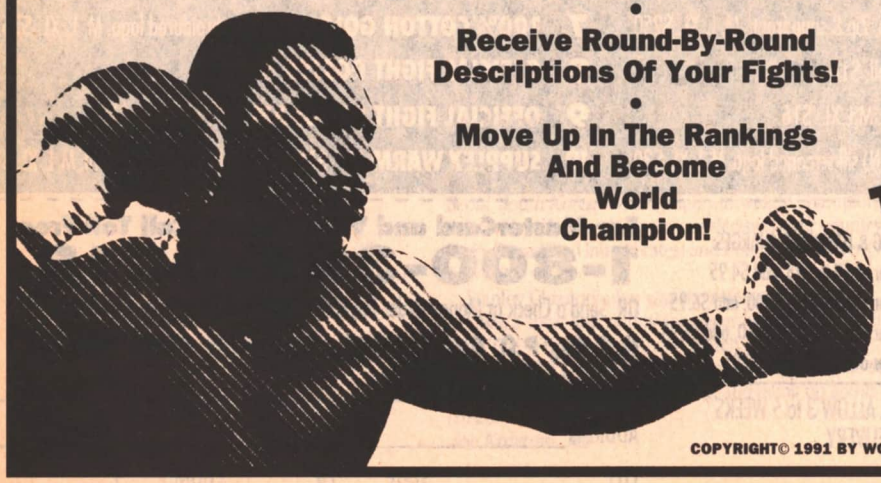

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*around The Arsenal, the tumbledown market, sleeping anywhere that an unexpected and unwelcome shower will not soak him. Usually, it will be in one of the fragile fishing boats tied up along the pier, where the smell of fish is all-pervading, and vultures sit on the rooftops waiting to gobble up whatever their human counterparts have no use for.*

*The sea draws the boy like a magnet. Perhaps the distant horizon holds out hopes of a better life, financial security, even fame. For one destitute inhabitant in a million like Varita Herazo there is a future, even though they all eventually return to Gethsemane. The proud neighborhood exercises a powerful hold over its progeny. It was here that the first cry of freedom from Spanish rule in the Americas went up 200 years ago. The barrio gave Herazo its blessing, and he in turn transmits his good fortune to his godson, Rodrigo. The boy will rise above hundreds of other street vultures to become a condor, and the middleweight champion of the world.*

***

Cartagena has changed surprisingly little over the past 45 years. The modernization and industrialization that have transformed nearby Barranquilla have barely touched it. But the proud city that for 200 years withstood the ravages of constant pirate attacks feels no need to compete with its neighbors. It is secure in its heritage and its place.

Rodrigo Valdes remains one of the town's most famous celebrities. He is usually to be found in the Park of the Martyrs in the late afternoon. That was how, through a helpful cab driver, *The Ring* recently tracked him down in his home town. Seated on a park bench waiting for the nearby movie theater to open, the former champion was saluted by most passersby old enough to remember his glorious exploits.

Sociable and easygoing, "Rocky" at once agreed to be interviewed on the next day. Where else but at the fish market? Valdes has gained some weight since he retired, but not a lot. He wore one of the brightly colored floral shirts that are his trademark, white pants, and white shoes. A half-inch thick gold chain hung from his neck, and his four initials (two first names plus paternal and maternal surnames) stood out on his gold-embossed front teeth. With a permanent and very wide grin on his lips, he looked like a member of a successful calypso band.

On the next day, he was not hard to find. After all, not too many celebrities hang out at the fish market near the waterfront. Having spent the greater part of his life there, Rocky is immune to the gut-wrenching smell. Newcomers, however, have a harder time dealing with it.

Rocky recalls his early life matter-of-factly. The hardships, the poverty, life on the streets. There is no rancor in his voice. To him it didn't even seem hard; he thrived on it. The young Rodrigo Valdes followed in his father's footsteps by learning the most traditional trade in Cartagena: fishing with a loose line, and, for even greater efficiency, tossing sticks of dynamite into the sea. Once the explosion has either killed or kayoed the fish, the horde of young boys swimming in the water quickly collects as many as they can and throws them into the surrounding fishing boats. Accidental deaths are regular occurrences; if the dynamite doesn't get you, the sharks will. Both got Rocky's dad.

But the scrawny kid also had another passion: He loved to use his fists in the streets, whether in gang-fights or taking on all comers in impromptu challenges for a few pesos. By the time he was 15, he was training in a gym.

"If you like to fight, why not learn to do it properly?" one of his friends suggested. But, as undernourished as he had been all his life, his weight did not match his spunk and he was rejected at local tournaments. He returned to the sea. At least the sharks didn't ask their victims how much they weighed.

Boxing still exercised a strong pull, however. The sport is as much a part of life on the Cartagena seafront and in its wretched slums as the clouds of persistent flies buzzing overhead.

"I stopped training for a couple of years," Valdes said, "but one night I went to see some buddies of mine fight at an amateur tournament organized by Bernardo Caraballo [the first Colombian boxer ever to fight for a world title]. When one of the boxers failed to show up, they put me in against his opponent. I won on points and attracted a lot of interest. After that I was encouraged to train again."

At age 16, and street-wise long before the term had been invented, Rocky had his first pro fight in his hometown, against Orlando Pineda in October 1963. He had already split two amateur bouts with Pineda. This time he had been trained and, more importantly, fed by a local restaurant manager called Tata Villa, who had taken the fatherless kid under his wing. His victory was decisive.

"My old friend Socrates said the sequins on my shorts blinded my opponent and the judges," he recalled.

A string of six wins followed, and a career was born.

In October 1965, Rocky tasted defeat for the first time, losing by knockout in six rounds to Rudy Escobar in Barranquilla. (It was the only kayo loss of his 18-year career.) But on that night, Valdes' life was changed forever. Among those in attendance was a local sports journalist, Melanio Porto Ariza, who detected something special in the youngster.

"After that fight he looked awful," Ariza recalled. "He had a torn lip that just hung from his face; it looked as if it would fall off altogether. His whole face was like a half-cooked liver. For five rounds he was aggressive and strong. Then he suffered the terrible injury to his lip. In any case, he had lost too much weight and began to run out of steam. I asked him what had happened, and he said that the morning of the fight they had sandwiched him between two cotton mattresses to sweat his weight down to the 136-pound limit. It left him a little groggy, he told me.

"I asked him if he would like me to be his manager. He accepted the offer at once, and I told him, 'You need to fight at a heavier weight.' "

That night Valdes was paid 430 pesos, enough to buy a couple of the floral-print shirts he so loved to wear and give his mother enough money for a month's food. The friendship subsequently forged between the two men has endured until this day. Thanks to Ariza's guidance, Valdes owns a number of properties—apartments and houses—and some buses.

"Melanio advised me what to do with my money, and he always told me that real estate was the safest investment," said Valdes. "Even today, if I want advice on a business deal, I go to Melanio."

Under Ariza's tutelage, Valdes' career took a dramatic upward turn. Over the next three years he scored 14 victories and two draws, all in his native Colombia. The wins included two tough decisions over the eccentric, shaven-headed Panamanian, Humberto Trottman.

*(Continued on page 58)*

## Rodrigo Valdes

*(Continued from page 57)*

The second Trottman fight took Rocky to the capital, Bogota, for the first time.

"I remember how impressed he was by the escalators at the airport," recalls Ariza. " 'Look, Melanio,' he said to me, 'they carry you up all by themselves!' We stayed at a flop house frequented by young couples. On average they lasted only a couple of hours each, then left a little disheveled. Rodrigo was fascinated! Our budget for food for the two of us was only 80 pesos a day [about $4]. Those were the days!

"Rocky hated being away from Cartagena. And on the night of the fight he was quite depressed. It was very cold and overcast, something he had never experienced before. Not like the evenings in Cartagena, where they say the stars fall like torches into the warm sea. Halfway through the fight Rocky says to me, 'It's too cold here. Make sure we have a ticket on the 6 a.m. flight.' "

If Valdes didn't like Bogota, worse was to follow. Ariza knew that if the fighter was to get anywhere, both literally and figuratively, he would have to travel. In February 1969, a fight against Daniel Guanin was set up for Quito, Ecuador. Heavily favored, Rocky lost on points. Over the next 10 years he was to become a globetrotting world champion, but he never came to terms with leaving home. After another victory in Cartagena, Ariza managed to persuade him that a visit to the United States was needed to hone his skills and provide better opponents.

Ariza knew Valdes had the potential to go to the top, but he needed a good U.S. manager. In New York, he struck a deal with one of the best, Gil Clancy, and returned home alone.

"Under Clancy, he was trained and taught many of the things he needed to learn; he had nine fights in nine months without getting hurt or receiving even so much as a cut," Ariza said.

But Valdes, who lived with trainer Chino Govin, was bitterly unhappy in the States. Life in the Big Apple held no attraction for him.

"For a boxing fanatic like myself, arriving in New York was like visiting the Holy Land," Ariza recalled. "To me, the lights on the Empire State Building were like the Star of Bethlehem. I imagined Rocky and me as Kid Chocolate and Pincho Gutierrez, the heroes of the boxing stories I had been brought up on. All Rocky could think about was his family and friends back home."

Despite rubbing shoulders at the gym with the likes of Emile Griffith and a young George Foreman, Rocky continued to feel lonely and homesick. New York is, after all, a city that specializes in man's immunity to man. After his initial run of impressive victories, the Colombian proceeded to lose two of his next three fights stateside (against Pete Toro and Ralph Palladin) and promptly fled New York without giving notice—and without his passport! All Valdes could think about was seeing his family and friends at The Arsenal again.

"A $3,000 purse in Cartagena was better than $60,000 in New York, as far as Rocky was concerned," said Ariza.

Back in Colombia, Rocky took a quick fight in nearby Medellin, then had a five-month layoff. It would be a year before he could be coaxed back to the U.S.

(Valdes was not the first Colombian fighter to hate traveling. As soon as Caraballo heard his manager had signed for a fight abroad, he would head straight for the nearest bar. Sometimes it would take days to persuade him to stop drinking and get back in training.)

In his second fight upon his return to New York, Valdes TKO'd the world-class Bobby Cassidy in seven rounds. But the Colombian's career suffered an unexpected setback: Unbeknownst to Cassidy, the New Yorker entered the ring with hepatitis, a highly contagious disease, and Valdes caught it. Rocky won twice more during the incubation period, but then began developing symptons. A six-month layoff ensued.

Rocky's determination was clearly demonstrated in 1972, when he burned up the comeback trail in spectacular fashion. Four wins in six months set him on course for his first trip to Europe. In December 1972, he outpointed Trinidadian contender Carlos Marks in Paris. Four more wins in 1973 elevated him to the position he had been striving to attain for four years: that of a serious contender for a shot at a world crown.

In September 1973, in Noumea, New Caledonia, he unveiled his talents for all the world to see. An unlikely spot for a crossroads fight, it probably suited the Caribbean Crusader more than his opponent, the wicked-punching Philadelphian Benny Briscoe, who had been widely hyped as a future world champion. In a brilliant display, Valdes won the NABF middleweight title with a 12-round decision.

That set him on course for the big one: a challenge for Carlos Monzon's undisputed middleweight crown. By 1974, the Argentine's place in boxing history was already assured. In November 1970, he had achieved the unthinkable by kayoing Italy's gleaming idol Nino Benvenuti. Before ripping the champion's crown from his head, Monzon had not even been ranked. Prior to the fight, the Italian press had even ridiculed the South American as a false pretender to the throne.

For the next four years, Monzon dominated the division with a panache that few champions possess, defending in Monte Carlo, Rome, Paris, and Copenhagen. The likes of Emile Griffith and "Mantequilla" Napoles were beaten decisively. It was all the more surprising, then, that the Argentine refused to face Valdes in 1974, and, as a result, was stripped of the WBC version of the title.

That left the vacant crown available for the two top contenders, Valdes and Briscoe, who met in Monte Carlo in May. Though Rocky had already fought in Paris and Noumea, he was not happy about another long sojourn away from Cartagena. But it did have its compensations.

"I was invited to the palace by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace," he recalled. "I also met their children. The Prince was at ringside for the fight."

Rocky's seventh-round kayo took him to the pinnacle of his profession and enhanced his reputation: In two bouts against the Philadelphian, Monzon had struggled to a draw—in Argentina—and a decision victory.

It was difficult, however, to imagine the human side of Valdes. He collapsed after the Briscoe fight and was admitted to the Princess Grace Hospital. Recalled Ariza, "He looked fine. He was excited, he spoke to the press. Everything looked normal. Then in the dressing room he began to complain of a searing pain in his left eye. Gradually he became more and more excited until finally he collapsed into the arms of Emile Griffith right in front of [actor]

Alain Delon and [middleweight] Jean-Claude Bouttier.

"We rushed him back to the hotel, but his condition further deteriorated, so we took him to the hospital. He spent three days in intensive care, and the doctors carried out all kinds of tests on him. Finally they announced their diagnosis: Rocky had suffered an attack of suppressed anxiety!"

Despite his reluctance to live or travel outside Colombia, Rocky made two defenses in Paris over the next two years, with a pair in Colombia sandwiched in between. The only way to get him to travel was to do it in small doses.

But who really was the best middleweight in the world? Valdes had begun to sow seeds of doubt about Monzon's true class. Remember, Rocky had beaten Briscoe soundly. Monzon had successfully defended his crown 14 times, Valdes four, but some of Monzon's bouts had been extremely close. Between he and Valdes, Briscoe was the highest common denominator.

The showdown between the two world middleweight kingpins was scheduled for June 1976 in Monte Carlo. Monzon would receive $250,000, Valdes $200,000, record purses for middleweights.

Valdes and Monzon had been badmouthing each other ever since the Argentine had been stripped of the WBC title. Rocky called him a coward. Now he chided Monzon for his forays into the movie world and for permitting actress and girlfriend Susana Jimenez the run of his training camp. She was to be seen timing Monzon's sparring rounds and pushing herself into his press photographs at every opportunity.

There was a lot of Latin macho—Monzon's specialty—exchanged between the two champions, and even some nasty racial undertones. (Argentines have traditionally considered themselves to be the aristocrats of South America, with a mostly European heritage, and a lighter-colored skin than most of their neighbors.)

Monzon called Valdes "chico" (little boy) and declared his intention of exacting revenge for Rocky's taunts: "Valdes is a paper tiger. I intend to send him home looking like he's been run over by a train. I think I'm going to let him last the full 15 rounds. That way I can watch him bleed slowly until the end."

The duel of the middleweight titans was everything the fans had expected, and more—15 rounds of pulsating action. It was the traditionally attractive contest between the supreme boxing technician and the non-stop slugger, artistry against raw power, brains against brawn. Monzon was the betting favorite. Rocky gave it all, but the Argentine piled up points with successful counterpunching. Besides his glittering boxing skills, Monzon did, after all, have 5½-inch reach and two-inch height advantages. As the fight progressed, Valdes' only hope was one of his famed kayos. With such a marked physical handicap, however, he failed to get close enough, often enough. Monzon, who scored a 14th-round knockdown, won by two points on two cards and four points on the other to retain the WBA title and regain the WBC title.

With hindsight, the outcome may have been decided before Rocky even got into the ring. Five days before the fight, his younger brother, Rafael, had been killed in a bar-room brawl in Cartagena. Valdes was heartbroken, and his immediate reaction was to ask for the fight to be postponed so he could return home at once. His handlers made him see otherwise: At that level, you don't just back out of a fight for personal reasons, no matter how tragic the circumstances.

Moreover, Valdes needed five trips to the scale to make weight. He dropped to 160 with three minutes to spare.

If some rated Monzon's victory in their first fight as a relatively easy one, nobody could say the same of the second fight 13 months later, again in Monte Carlo. Valdes had won two fights in Colombia in the interim, both by kayo, while Monzon was pursuing his film career and looking to retire. A $500,000 payday, another division record, made him change his mind. Girlfriend Susana was sent away for the duration of his training this time; no distractions were permitted.

Valdes was a notoriously slow starter, and Clancy could only hope he would still be in contention after the first six rounds. "After that," Clancy said, "he had only one gear, like Joe Frazier: smoking. You just have to get him into it."

But this time Rocky was motivated, perhaps more than for any other clash of his career. From the first-round bell, he carried the fight to the champion, "working like a buzzsaw," according to Clancy, "short and furious, a hammer that never stops." In the second round he opened a cut on Monzon's nose, then floored him with an overhand right over a left lead. The champion had not been off his feet in 13 years.

After the knockdown, Monzon began to work. The action was furious, the two fighters locked together in a brutal, bruising tango. The Argentine took control for a couple of rounds, only to lose it once again. Monzon looked confused, sensing the fight was going away from him. Valdes took rounds seven, eight, and nine. But a change of tactics by Monzon, stepping right and throwing right, set Rocky back on his heels, and in the 10th, a long cut opened over the Colombian's left eye.

Valdes took massive punishment in the 12th, but bounced back again. By the 14th, Monzon was desperate. Only when he summoned the strength to throw six straight, hard punches did he succeed in slowing Rocky down. The last round was all about blood and guts. It had been a superhuman performance from both men, one of the best middleweight fights ever seen. The officials gave the fight to Monzon, two by three points, one by two. On many scorecards it was reckoned to have been no less than a draw—if not a win for Valdes.

"It was a very, very close fight," recalled Rocky. "The fighter with the biggest support had to win, and Monzon was very popular in France and Italy, thanks to his acting career. He was the local boy, so to speak. I knew going into the fight that if I didn't knock him out, I had only a 25 percent chance of winning. If the fight had taken place in New York or Panama, I could just as easily have been the winner by decision. But he was a great champion, there's no doubt about that."

Despite the loss, further glory awaited Rocky. Incredibly, only three months after his war with Monzon, Valdes was back in Europe, fighting Briscoe once again for the title vacated by Monzon. In another punishing 15-rounder, it was Rocky who was again the victor.

"Benny had the hardest punch of anyone I ever fought, twice as hard as Monzon, who was much more of a technical boxer," Rocky recalled. "Briscoe was so tough, he always came forward, never even thought about backpedaling. He stayed on top of you the entire fight."

*(Continued on page 60)*

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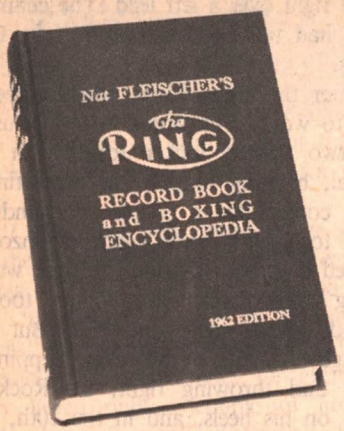


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## Rodrigo Valdes

*(Continued from page 59)*

Rocky's reign would last only six months. In April 1978, in San Remo, Italy, he lost on points to another Argentine, the upstart Hugo Corro.

"When I fought Corro, I was drained, weakened by the fights with Monzon and Briscoe," Valdes explained. "They were both very tough encounters that sapped my strength. Corro was clever and ran all over the ring. He knew he could never kayo me, but he denied me the chance of kayoing him. I just couldn't stay up with him over 15 rounds."

Six months later in Buenos Aires, Corro repeated his victory. Though he did not announce his official retirement, Valdes remained inactive throughout 1979. (No prizes for guessing where he spent his time.) In 1980, he took two fights in Bogota, both of which he won by knockout. But he was tired.

At 35, Rocky had nothing more to prove. His place in history was secure. According to boxing historian Hank Kaplan, "He was an excellent middleweight champion who had the misfortune to be a contemporary of the immortal Carlos Monzon. Remember that Monzon had tremendous advantages of height and reach—and knew how to use them. Aside from Monzon, Valdes dominated the middleweight division. A sharp puncher and a tenacious adversary for anybody, he didn't lay back, but, like a true world champion, took the fight to his challenger.

"His boxing style had a little bit of all the necessary ingredients of a great middleweight champion—and bear in mind that the division has had some of the greatest fighting machines in boxing history. Valdes would have been worthy opposition for anybody. In 1988, *The Ring* rated Valdes a most commendable number 11 in their ratings of all-time middleweight greats."

If Rocky could have won the title by staying at home in Cartagena, he would gladly have done so. For the past 12 years, he has been back where he most likes to be. Four wives have come and gone, and 10 children remain. There were plenty of girlfriends before and since. All from Cartagena. Valdes is a happy man. He lives well, though by American standards, simply. But money has never meant much to him. He values his friendships much more highly.

Unlike many former boxers, Valdes enjoys good health. He has many friends, and spends his days hanging out on the waterfront and going to the movies. Not surprisingly, perhaps, *Rocky* is his favorite.

It had been a long way from Cartagena to Monte Carlo, but Rodrigo Valdes had no trouble finding his way back. ■

***James Dusgate, a frequent contributor to* The Ring, *is based in Costa Rica.***

## 1980 Olympians

*(Continued from page 34)*

### 165 pounds: Charles Carter

From the start of their pro careers, "Machine Gun" Carter, a smooth-boxing middleweight from Yakima, Washington, was among the most low-profile of the '80 Olympians. He was knocked out by Mardo Roybal in only his sixth pro fight and never recovered. Depressingly consistent, he lost bouts in '82, '83, '84, '86, and '87. His only notable win came over Alex Ramos.

According to Mike "Motormouth" Morton, who managed Carter during the mid-1980s, drugs ruined the fighter's career.

"In 1986," Morton said, "I took Charles to Madison Square Garden to fight Iran Barkley, and traces of cocaine were found in his urine. He never fought that night." (Carter was suspended for 90 days.)

Morton said Carter, now 32, spent time in rehab. According to Yakima police, he was arrested in August 1990 for delivery of cocaine. He was convicted and sentenced to 60 months in prison at, ironically, the Olympic Correction Center in Shelton, Washington.

"He had all the talent in the world," Morton said. "God, what a schmuck!"

### 156 pounds: James Shuler

Shortly after turning pro, 1976 Olympic gold medalist Sugar Ray Leonard found himself in the back seat of a limousine. Shortly after he turned pro, Shuler, who had been favored to win the gold in Moscow, found himself behind the wheel of a gypsy cab.

"I feel I'm missing out on a lot of fun, recognition, and money," he said at the time. "I'm scratching."

A tall, skilled boxer, Shuler advanced steadily as a pro. In 1982, he decisioned Sugar Ray Seales and won the NABF middleweight title. He made two successful defenses, including a nationally televised points victory over the unbeaten James Kinchen, before clashing with Thomas Hearns in March 1986. A single right hand kayoed Shuler in the first round.

Ten days after losing to Hearns, Shuler, 26, was killed when he crashed his motorcycle into a tractor trailer in North Philadelphia. More than 1,500 mourners gathered to pay their respects at his funeral. Among them was Hearns, who flew in from Detroit to return the NABF belt to Shuler's family.

"James held it longer than me," Hearns told them.

### 147 pounds: Donald Curry

Curry turned out to be the most accomplished member of the class of '80. In fact, after unifying the welterweight title, he was regarded by many to be boxing's best pound-for-pound fighter. But his term at the top was surprisingly brief.

A complete fighter who lacked nothing but experience, the Texan advanced quickly. He won the NABF crown in his 12th fight, successfully defended against undefeated Marlon Starling in his 15th fight, captured the vacant WBA welterweight title in his 16th fight, and added the IBF title in his 18th fight.

In December 1985, Curry peaked with a brutal second-round knockout of WBC 147-pound champion Milton McCrory. Less than a year later, however, his career began to unravel when he was upset by Lloyd Honeyghan.

Moving on to junior middleweight, Curry challenged for Mike McCallum's WBA title, but suffered a one-punch kayo. He subsequently captured the WBC 154-pound crown, but was dethroned in his first defense by undistinguished clubfighter Rene Jacquot. Hanging on, he secured two more world title tries, but was kayoed by Michael Nunn at middleweight and, earlier this year, Terry Norris at junior middleweight.

After the loss to Norris, Curry, 30, announced his retirement. He is now managing fighters, including a trio of highly touted prospects, Skipper Kelp, Emmett Linton, and Carl Daniels.

"I'm interested in being a good manager," Curry said. "But I'd like to go into the promotion end and wind up being the best in the business. After that, I might enter politics, perhaps run for city council. I've always been interested in local government, but I never had the time to pursue it because of boxing."

### 139 pounds: Johnny Bumphus

Trainer George Benton regards Bumphus as his biggest professional disappointment.

"His drug use in later years was very disturbing to me," he said. "He was an intelligent man, a very gutsy guy, plus he was a family man. The guys you least suspect are the ones who are doing it."

Before being choked by personal problems, the 6-foot southpaw fit comfortably into the role of classy and skilled champion. Moved carefully but steadily by the Duvas, he won the USBA junior welterweight title in his 12th bout, and the vacant WBA crown in his 22nd bout. But weakened by a struggle to make 140 pounds, he lost the title in his first defense, collapsing after building a points lead against Gene Hatcher. Less than three years later, he was totally washed up.

*(Continued on page 63)*


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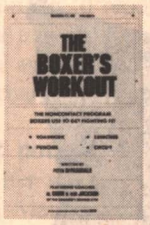


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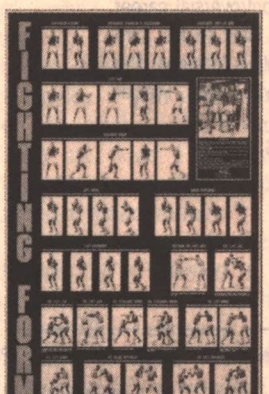


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## 1980 Olympians

*(Continued from page 61)*

No one could be sure whether Bumphus' loss of equilibrium was due to his lengthy career as an amateur and pro, or his use of cocaine. His last fight came in 1987 against welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan. Bumphus was knocked down twice and lasted only into the second round. Benton admits that he and Lou Duva were seeking to secure their fighter one final payday.

"Man, he couldn't even walk," Benton recalled. "But we guided him toward the ring, up the steps, and to his corner. And he got that last payday."

In the winter of 1988, Bumphus was admitted to Nashville's Baptist Hospital for cocaine dependency. "I sit on my bed and cry about what I turned into," he told the New York *Daily News*.

Two years later, Bumphus was arrested in his hometown of Tacoma, Washington, for possession of crack.

In September, Bumphus, now 31, was wounded in a streetfight during which, according to police in Tacoma, another man was stabbed to death. The victim, identified as Douglas Shoffner, had been arguing with Bumphus when Shoffner pulled out a knife. According to reports, police said Bumphus defended himself by turning the knife on Shoffner. As of this writing, no charges had been filed.

### 132 pounds: Joe Manley

After struggling early in his pro career, Manley became a world champion despite the debilitating effects of lactose intolerance. Before fights, his co-manager, Stan Hoffman, kept him on a rigid diet; Manley was advised not to eat any dairy products.

Manley's early progress was slowed by close decision losses to Harry Arroyo (in 1982), Gene Hatcher (in '83), and Ronnie Shields (in '85). But the boxer/puncher remained determined, and victories over Fred Pendleton and Howard Davis Jr. led to his first world title try. In 1986, Manley won the IBF junior welterweight title by knocking out Gary Hinton. But shortly after, according to Hoffman, Manley changed his diet.

"Unbeknownst to us, he started eating eggs and milk," he said.

The situation had worsened by the time Manley defended for the first time, against England's Terry Marsh. The weakened champion was kayoed in eight rounds and subsequently hospitalized. He came into the ring weighing a measly 134 (six pounds under the division limit), the result of diarrhea and vomiting after the weigh-in.

"As the bout wore on," Hoffman recalled, "Joe got weaker and weaker. I don't know what it was with me signing Olympians with odd eating habits."

Since losing to Marsh, Manley has fought eight times and has suffered four stoppage defeats. His last bout was a TKO loss to Buddy McGirt in November 1989. According to Bob Mittleman, who co-managed Manley, the fighter, now 32, is considering a comeback.

### 125 pounds: Bernard Taylor

Still fighting at age 34, Taylor has yet to win a world title. "But at least I got two title shots as a pro," said the reigning USBA junior lightweight champion. "That's more than most fighters get."

Among the most naturally gifted of the class of '80, Taylor won his first 18 bouts. In 1982, he tried for his first world title, but had the misfortune of challenging one of the division's all-time greats, Eusebio Pedroza. In a dull chess match, Pedroza kept the crown with a draw. Three years later, Taylor again fought for the WBA 126-pound title and was kayoed by Barry McGuigan.

"I had my chance, but I didn't do it," said Taylor. "I'm still plugging away, but it's tough to get promoters to stay with me. Had I won a gold medal, though, it would've been so much easier to make money."

Over 12 years, Taylor has earned $750,000, and he's invested it. (He owns a trucking company in his hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee.)

"I don't have to fight," he said. "I choose to because it's a wonderful talent God has given me."

### 119 pounds: Jackie Beard

At the start of his pro career, Beard signed with Emanuel Steward. The Kronk Gym was hotter than ever, and Beard figured his career would blossom. But it never did. After opening with 12 wins, Beard failed in his first test against a world-class opponent, losing a decision to Jose Caba in 1982. He won the NABF 126-pound crown in his next bout, but despite a string of

*(Continued on page 64)*


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## 1980 Olympians

*(Continued from page 63)*

successful defenses, never gained momentum.

"I admire Emanuel as a person and a businessman," the featherweight told the *New York Post* in 1986, "but he showed little interest in me. Tommy Hearns was the big guy back then, and Emanuel spent most of his time with him. So after four years I packed up and left."

Next stop, Don King. Beard said King advanced him $8,000 and promised him $15,000 for his first fight, as well as a world title opportunity.

"He sent me up to Montreal to fight Nedrick Simmons, and I made only $5,000, not the $15,000 I was promised," Beard continued. "Then he wanted me to fight Azumah Nelson as a sub on 10 days notice for the [WBC] title, but there wasn't enough time to get ready. I wanted more than just a payday. I wanted a chance. And so I complained."

King stopped taking his calls, and Beard asked for his release. King said fine, but demanded a return of the $8,000 advance.

Beard, who has grossed $200,000 in purses, jumped from manager to manager and, in 1989 and '90, landed a pair of unsuccessful title tries against then-WBA junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell. After his second loss to Mitchell, he suffered two consecutive stoppage defeats, the most recent coming against Joey Gamache in February.

Beard hasn't boxed since, but wants to.

"I'm determined," he said, "to become a world champion."

### 112 pounds: Richie Sandoval

Sandoval enjoyed a short but glorious career. He raced to the front of the bantamweight division, and in April 1984, after winning his first 22 fights, he TKO'd the long-reigning Jeff Chandler to win the WBA title. He made two successful defenses, added victories in four consecutive non-title fights, and seemed unbeatable until the fight that changed his life.

If you saw Sandoval's 1986 defense against Gaby Canizales, you'll never forget its cruel and savage finality. Struggling to make 118 pounds, the champion stopped eating two days before the weigh-in. When the fight began, his body reacted on instinct, but only for so long. He was dropped five times before being knocked out in the seventh round. After falling for the last time, he suffered a seizure and severe head injuries. Just like that, his career was over.

After Sandoval's recovery, promoter Bob Arum offered him a full-time public relations job with Top Rank. But there was a condition: Sandoval could never fight again. He gladly accepted.

Now 31, Sandoval works for Top Rank and trains unbeaten flyweight contender Scotty Olson.

### 106 pounds: Robert Shannon

After the Olympic boycott, Shannon, always a bit different from his teammates, chose to travel a different road. He spent the summer of '82 on a fishing boat, traveling from Everett, Washington, to the Aleutian Islands. After packing fish for 20 hours a day, he realized he still wanted to fight. So he earned a place on the record-setting '84 Olympic team. (At the Los Angeles Games, he boxed at 119 pounds and was stopped by future pro world


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champion Sung Kil Moon. Shannon turned out to be the only American fighter not to win a medal.)

As a pro, Shannon never developed. In fact, along with Carter, he was the only team member who didn't win at least an NABF or USBA crown. He went undefeated over his first 15 bouts, then, in '86, was outpointed at 122 pounds by future world champion Greg Richardson. He went 5-6 in his last 11 bouts, his most recent effort a decision loss to Vinnie Ponzio in November 1990. But he has not officially retired.

"This guy could've been a big name," said his former manager, Angelo Dundee, "but he never got the breaks."

Nor much money. Shannon's career earnings totaled only $50,000. Today, age 29, he lives in Lynnwood, Washington, and works in construction.

"But with this economy," he said, "I'm out of work a lot." ■

## New Faces

*(Continued from page 16)*

"Openio was awkward," Zavala said. "I had to figure him out. Once I did, I started boxing better. I'm in shape mentally and physically. When I'm in there, I think positive. I'm not actually looking for the kayo. But if I throw a right hand and hit the guy right, I know he's gonna go down."

Zavala's blend of power and skill has made him a valuable commodity. Stone became a believer after witnessing it from the opposite corner. In October 1990, he was managing Juan Torres, who was considered a bright prospect until being matched with Zavala.

"Rudy did everything but knock the kid out," Stone said. "I learned the hard way."

Three months after the Torres fight, Stone signed Zavala. He took his new investment to the Forum, where Zavala fought 10 of his first 13 bouts. But Zavala and Stone parted with the Forum after promoter Bob Arum beckoned in October.

"The Forum was trying to sign him, but Top Rank showed a lot of interest," Stone said. "They gave us what we needed—fights. They guaranteed us eight fights per year. You can't make a living on only four fights a year."

Arum signed Zavala to a two-year promotional contract. What he offered was a chance for national exposure. In November, in his first fight with Top Rank, Zavala stopped trialhorse Lee Cargle on ESPN.

"I like his aggressiveness," Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler said. "He has a zest for fighting. He really enjoys going after a guy and picking him apart."

Trampler said that Zavala's contract is structured in such a manner that he must get a title shot within the first year of the deal. But Stone feels his fighter is ready right now and would immediately welcome a fight with either former titlist Paul Banke or WBC champion Daniel Zaragoza. [As we went to press, Zaragoza was scheduled to defend against Banke.]

"I feel that I have to keep working hard," Zavala said. "My time will come. I need a little more experience, and then I'll be ready for a world title." ■

## Superfans

*(Continued from page 19)*

after the move, she turned her attention to Mitchell, an exciting lightweight from Takoma Park, Maryland.

"We first noticed Sharmba in the amateurs," she said.

Arlene goes beyond attending fights. She hangs out at Mitchell's gym, Round One, which is run by the fighter's trainer and manager, Adrian Davis.

"I like the place; they even treat their amateurs like professionals," says Arlene. "They are so good with these kids. It's like a family. But Sharmba is their number-one boxer."

Mitchell is also Arlene's number-one boxer. She keeps the ring record of the southpaw, as well as several other fighters, on her computer, watches the Tuesday and Thursday night fights religiously (she tapes them when she's out), and, along with her husband John, attends fight cards whenever she can.

"It's fun," she says. "I'm the force behind it at home. I'm the expert. And at work, my boss is really good. If I want to attend a fight, he lets me change from a Tuesday to a Thursday. I love boxing, and Sharmba is my

*(Continued on page 70)*


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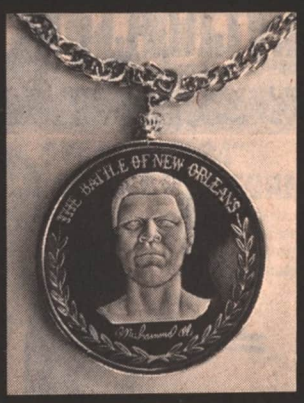


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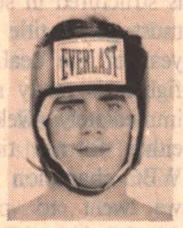

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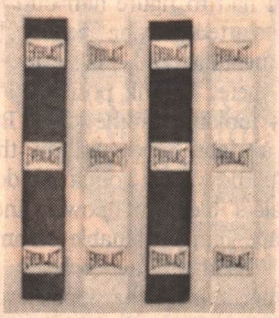

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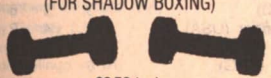

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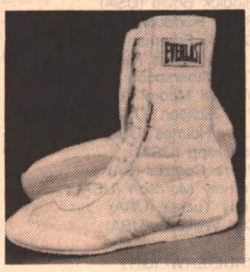

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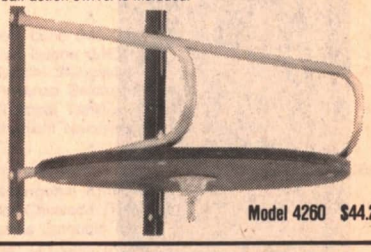

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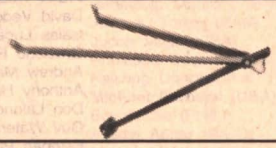

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**WBC** as of September

**WBA** as of September

**IBF** as of November

| HEAVYWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Evander Holyfield (USA)** | C | C | C |
| Mike Tyson (USA) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Riddick Bowe (USA) | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Razor Ruddock (CAN) | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| George Foreman (USA) | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Lennox Lewis (GB) | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Tim Witherspoon (USA) | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Michael Moorer (USA) | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Phil Jackson (USA) | 8 | - | - |
| Larry Holmes (USA) | 9 | - | - |
| Joe Hipp (USA) | 10 | - | - |
| Pierre Coetzer (SA) | - | 2 | 3 |
| Tommy Morrison (USA) | 11 | 8 | - |
| Tony Tucker (USA) | - | 9 | 7 |
| Carl Williams (USA) | 15 | - | 10 |

| CRUISERWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Anaclet Wamba (FRA)** | C | - | - |
| Jeff Lampkin (USA) | 1 | - | - |
| Orlin Norris (USA) | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Massimiliano Duran (ITA) | 3 | - | 12 |
| Johnny Nelson (GB) | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Derek Angol (GB) | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Dennis Andries (GB) | 6 | - | 12 |
| Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA) | 7 | - | 8 |
| Carlos DeLeon (PR) | 8 | - | 11 |
| Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR) | 9 | - | - |
| Robert Daniels (USA) | 10 | 2 | - |
| **Bobby Czyz (USA)** | - | C | - |
| Taoufik Belbouli (FRA) | - | 1 | - |
| Alfred Cole (USA) | - | 4 | 1 |
| Phil Jackson (USA) | - | 6 | - |
| Mike Hunter (USA) | 12 | 7 | 3 |
| Akim Tafer (FRA) | 17 | 9 | - |
| Bash Ali (USA) | 29 | 10 | - |
| **James Warring (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Iby Zimmerman (CAU) | - | - | 4 |
| Richard Mason (USA) | 15 | - | 5 |
| Don Lalonde (CAN) | - | 11 | 9 |
| Donnell Wingfield | - | - | 10 |

| LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Jeff Harding (AUSTR)** | C | 6 | - |
| Virgil Hill (USA) | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Frank Tate (USA) | 2 | - | 1 |
| David Vedder (USA) | 3 | - | - |
| Isaias Lucero (MEX) | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Graciano Rocchigiani (GER) | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Andrew Maynard (USA) | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Anthony Hembrick (USA) | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Don Lalonde (CAN) | 8 | - | - |
| Guy Waters (AUSTR) | 9 | - | - |
| Esteban Pizarro (PR) | 10 | 7 | 6 |
| **Thomas Hearns (USA)** | - | C | - |
| Ed Mack (USA) | 18 | 8 | - |
| Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA) | 15 | 9 | - |
| Wan Sub Lee (KOR) | 29 | 10 | - |
| **Charles Williams (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Iran Barkley (USA) | 14 | - | 8 |
| Mwehu Beya (ITA) | - | - | 9 |
| Booker Word (USA) | - | 12 | 10 |

| SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mauro Galvano (ITA)** | C | - | - |
| Christophe Tiozzo (FRA) | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| Tony Thornton (USA) | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Randall Yonker (USA) | 3 | 7 | - |
| James Cook (GB) | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| Lindell Holmes (USA) | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Ron Essett (USA) | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Dan Schommer (USA) | 7 | - | - |
| Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR) | 8 | - | 5 |
| Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN) | 9 | 3 | - |
| Frank Nicotra (FRA) | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| **Victor Cordoba (PAN)** | - | C | - |
| Vicenzo Nardiello (ITA) | 13 | 8 | - |
| Larry Musgrove (USA) | 14 | 10 | - |
| **Darrin Van Horn (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Michael Nunn (USA) | - | - | 1 |
| John Jarvis (USA) | 26 | - | 4 |
| Thulani Malinga (SA) | - | - | 6 |
| Nelson Alves (GER) | 20 | - | 10 |

| MIDDLEWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Julian Jackson (USA)** | C | - | - |
| Michael Nunn (USA) | 1 | 4 | - |
| Sumbu Kalambay (ITA) | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Reggie Johnson (USA) | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Lamar Parks (USA) | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Herol Graham (GB) | 5 | 12 | 4 |
| Steve Collins (USA) | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Nigel Benn (GB) | 7 | 8 | - |
| Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA) | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| Segundo Mercado (PR) | 9 | - | - |
| Willie Monroe (USA) | 10 | - | - |
| **Mike McCallum (JAM)** | - | C | - |
| Thomas Tate (USA) | 21 | 7 | 7 |
| Joe Gatti (USA) | 25 | 9 | - |
| Ulysses Boulware (USA) | 23 | 10 | - |
| **James Toney (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Gerald McClellan (USA) | 11 | - | 6 |
| Kid Milo (GB) | - | - | 8 |
| Ruben Cabral (ARG) | 19 | - | 9 |

| JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Terry Norris (USA)** | C | - | - |
| Jorge Castro (ARG) | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Jorge Vaca (MEX) | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Aaron Davis (USA) | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG) | 4 | 8 | - |
| Troy Waters (AUSTRL) | 5 | - | - |
| Carl Daniels (USA) | 6 | - | - |
| Gilbert Baptist (USA) | 7 | 11 | 2 |
| Wally Swift (GB) | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| Yung Kil Chung (KOR) | 9 | 6 | - |
| Tyson Vasquez (MEX) | 10 | - | - |
| **Gilbert Dele (FRA)** | - | C | 3 |
| Vinny Pazienza (USA) | 16 | 4 | - |
| Jun Sok Hwang (KOR) | - | 5 | - |
| Vernon Phillips (USA) | - | 7 | 12 |
| Gregory Clark (SA) | - | 9 | - |
| Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA) | 15 | 10 | - |
| **Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)** | - | - | C |
| Glenn Wolfe (USA) | 13 | - | 5 |
| Roy Jones (USA) | 28 | - | 6 |
| Vincent Pettway (USA) | - | - | 9 |
| Quincy Taylor (USA) | 11 | - | 10 |

| WELTERWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Simon Brown (USA)** | C | - | - |
| Buddy McGirt (USA) | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| **Maurice Blocker (USA)** | 2 | 7 | C |
| Glenwood Brown (USA) | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Genaro Leon (MEX) | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| Patrizio Oliva (ITA) | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Luis Garcia (VEN) | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Santos Cardona (PR) | 7 | - | - |
| Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP) | 8 | 10 | 12 |
| Vernon Phillips (USA) | 9 | - | - |
| Crisanto Espana (VEN) | 10 | 1 | 6 |
| **Meldrick Taylor (USA)** | - | C | - |
| Carl Daniels (USA) | - | 5 | 5 |
| Jong Oh Park (KOR) | 12 | 6 | - |
| Stephan Johnson (USA) | - | - | 7 |
| David Gonzalez (USA) | 13 | - | 9 |
| Donovan Boucher (CAN) | 14 | 12 | 10 |

| JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)** | C | - | - |
| Angel Hernandez (PR) | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Juan M. Coggi (ARG) | 2 | 3 | - |
| Pat Barrett (GB) | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Roger Mayweather (USA) | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Harold Brazier (USA) | 5 | - | 8 |
| Alberto Cortes (ARG) | 6 | - | - |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Loreto Garza (USA) | 7 | 8 | 12 |
| Rodney Moore (USA) | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| Terrence Ali (USA) | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| Greg Haugen (USA) | 10 | - | 10 |
| **Edwin Rosario (PR)** | - | C | - |
| Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP) | - | 1 | - |
| Pyung Sup Kim (KOR) | 26 | 9 | - |
| Ignacio Bernal (COL) | - | 10 | - |
| Rafael Pineda (COL) | 13 | - | 1 |
| Charles Murray (USA) | 15 | - | 4 |
| Oba Carr (USA) | 17 | - | 7 |
| Andy Holligan (GB) | - | - | 9 |

| **LIGHTWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Pernell Whitaker (USA)** | C | C | C |
| Chil Sung Chun (KOR) | 1 | 1 | - |
| Darryll Tyson (USA) | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Jorge Paez (MEX) | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Sharmba Mitchell (USA) | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| Freddie Pendleton (USA) | 5 | - | 1 |
| Carl Crook (GB) | 6 | - | 11 |
| Poli Diaz (SPA) | 7 | 4 | - |
| Miguel Gonzalez (MEX) | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Shane Knox (AUSTRL) | 9 | - | 8 |
| Wilfredo Rocha (COL) | 10 | - | - |
| Antonio Esparragoza (VEN) | - | 3 | - |
| Tracy Spann (USA) | 12 | 6 | 2 |
| Iwao Otomo (JAP) | 17 | 7 | - |
| Omar Flores (MEX) | 13 | 9 | - |
| Eduardo Molina (COL) | 19 | - | 5 |
| Miguel Julio (COL) | 26 | - | 6 |
| Todd Foster (USA) | 22 | - | 10 |

| **JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Azumah Nelson (GHA)** | C | - | - |
| Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL) | 1 | 2 | - |
| John-John Molina (PR) | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Genaro Hernandez (USA) | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Daniel Londas (FRA) | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Bernard Taylor (USA) | 5 | - | 6 |
| Pedro Gutierrez (ARG) | 6 | - | - |
| Tyrone Downes (TRIN) | 7 | - | - |
| Regilio Tuur (HOL) | 8 | 8 | 11 |
| Marcos Guevara (VEN) | 9 | 10 | - |
| Gabriel Ruelas (USA) | 10 | - | - |
| **Joey Gamache (USA)** | - | C | - |
| Pierre Lorcy (FRA) | 16 | 4 | - |
| Tony Lopez (USA) | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| Takeyuki Akagi (JAP) | 11 | 7 | - |
| Eugene Speed (USA) | 18 | 9 | - |
| **Brian Mitchell (SA)** | - | - | C |
| Fernando Caicedo (COL) | - | - | 2 |
| Coco Ramirez (MEX) | - | - | 4 |
| Hector Lizarraga (USA) | - | - | 8 |
| Jerry Ngobeni (SA) | - | - | 9 |
| Gabriel Ruelas (USA) | - | - | 10 |

| **FEATHERWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Marcos Villasana (MEX)** | C | - | - |
| Paul Hodkinson (GB) | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| Ricardo Cepeda (USA) | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| Tom Johnson (USA) | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Ever Beleno (COL) | 4 | 7 | 12 |
| Kevin Kelley (USA) | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Fabrice Benichou (FRA) | 6 | 8 | - |
| Jose Ramos (DR) | 7 | - | - |
| Seiji Asakawa (JAP) | 8 | 10 | - |
| Miguel Francia (ARG) | 9 | - | - |
| Hector Lizarraga (USA) | 10 | - | - |
| **Yung Kyun Park (KOR)** | - | C | - |
| Jackie Gunguluza (SA) | - | 1 | 7 |
| Eloy Rojas (VEN) | 11 | 4 | - |
| Colin McMillan (GB) | 17 | 9 | - |
| **Manuel Medina (MEX)** | - | - | C |
| November Ntshingila (SA) | - | - | 2 |
| Troy Dorsey (USA) | 23 | - | 3 |
| James Leija (USA) | 12 | - | 4 |
| Cedric Mingo (USA) | - | - | 5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lupe Gutierrez (USA) | 16 | - | 6 |
| Harold Rhodes (USA) | 26 | - | 10 |

| **JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)** | C | - | - |
| Tracy Patterson (USA) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP) | 2 | 8 | - |
| Jesus Salud (USA) | 3 | - | 4 |
| Freddy Cruz (DR) | 4 | 2 | - |
| Pedro Decima (ARG) | 5 | - | 5 |
| Jemal Hinton (USA) | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Jose Garcia (DR) | 7 | - | - |
| Paul Banke (USA) | 8 | - | - |
| Chun Huh (KOR) | 9 | - | - |
| Ki Jun Lee (KOR) | 10 | - | - |
| **Luis Mendoza (COL)** | - | C | - |
| Ramon Guzman (VEN) | - | 4 | 6 |
| Raul Perez (MEX) | - | 5 | - |
| Porfirio Hernandez (MEX) | - | 6 | - |
| Jae Won Choi (KOR) | 11 | 7 | - |
| Noree Jockygym (THAI) | 21 | 9 | - |
| Juan Rodriguez (COL) | 14 | 10 | - |
| **Welcome Ncita (SA)** | - | - | C |
| Richard Duran (USA) | - | - | 2 |
| Baby Rojas (USA) | - | - | 3 |
| Kennedy McKinney (USA) | 24 | 11 | 7 |
| Hurley Snead (USA) | - | - | 9 |
| Jose Rincones (VEN) | 27 | 12 | 10 |

| **BANTAMWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)** | C | - | - |
| Pepillo Valdez (MEX) | 1 | - | 10 |
| Victor Rabanales (MEX) | 2 | - | - |
| Raul Perez (MEX) | 3 | - | - |
| Chang Kyun Oh (KOR) | 4 | - | - |
| Yong Hoon Lee (KOR) | 5 | 3 | - |
| Gerardo Martinez (USA) | 6 | - | 12 |
| Thierry Jacob (FRA) | 7 | 8 | 1 |
| Eliecer Julio (COL) | 8 | 2 | - |
| Francisco Alvarez (COL) | 9 | - | 2 |
| Junior Jones (USA) | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| **Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)** | - | C | 7 |
| Israel Contreras (VEN) | - | 1 | - |
| Yun Chun Min (KOR) | 11 | 5 | - |
| Hector Acero (DR) | - | 6 | - |
| Eddie Cook (USA) | 12 | 7 | 11 |
| Greg Richardson (USA) | - | 9 | - |
| Luis Malave (VEN) | - | 10 | - |
| **Orlando Canizales (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Juvenal Berrio (COL) | - | - | 3 |
| Billy Hardy (GB) | - | - | 5 |
| Dio Andujar (USA) | - | - | 6 |
| Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP) | - | - | 8 |
| Harold Mestre (COL) | - | 12 | 9 |

| **JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sung Kil Moon (KOR)** | C | - | - |
| Katsuya Onizuka (JAP) | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Johnny Tapia (USA) | 2 | 8 | - |
| Greg Richardson (USA) | 3 | - | - |
| Armando Castro (MEX) | 4 | 3 | - |
| Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI) | 5 | 2 | - |
| Armando Salazar (MEX) | 6 | - | - |
| Kenji Matsumura (JAP) | 7 | 6 | - |
| Torsak Pongsupa (THAI) | 8 | - | - |
| Luiz Ferreira (BRA) | 9 | - | 4 |
| Nana Konadu (GHA) | 10 | - | - |
| **Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)** | - | C | - |
| Hyun Chul Lee (KOR) | - | 4 | - |
| David Griman (VEN) | 24 | 5 | - |
| Hugo Soto (ARG) | - | 7 | - |
| Rey Paciones (PHIL) | 14 | 9 | - |
| Guillermo Salcedo (COL) | - | 10 | - |
| **Robert Quiroga (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Carlos Mercado (COL) | 11 | - | 1 |
| Ole Kieatwonway (THAI) | - | - | 2 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joel Luna (MEX) | 18 | - | 3 |
| Luis Bueno (MEX) | 17 | - | 5 |
| Satoshi Shingaki (JAP) | - | - | 6 |
| Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA) | - | - | 7 |
| Chatohai Tanieul (THAI) | - | - | 8 |
| Shunichi Nakajima (JAP) | - | - | 10 |

| **FLYWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)** | C | - | - |
| Sot Chitalada (THAI) | 1 | - | 10 |
| Isaias Zamudio (USA) | 2 | - | 4 |
| Yun Un Chin (KOR) | 3 | 4 | - |
| Yuri Arbachakov (USSR) | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Alberto Jimenez (MEX) | 5 | - | - |
| Al Kotey (GHA) | 6 | - | 7 |
| Francisco Tejedor (COL) | 7 | - | - |
| Jung Koo Chang (KOR) | 8 | - | - |
| Richard Clarke (JAM) | 9 | - | 3 |
| Rodolfo Blanco (COL) | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| **Yong Kang Kim (KOR)** | - | C | - |
| Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL) | - | 2 | - |
| Kotaro Hayashi (JAP) | 19 | 3 | - |
| Alvaro Mercado (COL) | - | 5 | - |
| Julio Gudino (PAN) | 18 | 6 | - |
| Leo Gamez (VEN) | - | 7 | - |
| Torsak Osotsapha (THAI) | - | 9 | - |
| Scotty Olson (USA) | 23 | 10 | 9 |
| **Dave McAuley (IRE)** | - | - | C |
| Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI) | - | - | 2 |
| Dodi Penalosa (PHIL) | 17 | - | 5 |
| Pichit Sitbangprachan (THAI) | - | - | 6 |

| **LIGHT FLYWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)** | C | - | - |
| Domingo Sosa (DR) | 1 | 11 | 1 |
| Rolando Pascua (PHIL) | 2 | 10 | 3 |
| Melchor Cob Castro (MEX) | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Hiroki Ioka (JAP) | 4 | 1 | - |
| Nam Hoon Cha (KOR) | 5 | 2 | - |
| Gerry Penalosa (PHIL) | 6 | 9 | - |
| Alejandro Montiel (MEX) | 7 | - | - |
| Antonio Perez (MEX) | 8 | - | - |
| Leon Salazar (PAN) | 9 | - | 5 |
| Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI) | 10 | - | - |
| **Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)** | - | C | - |
| Benedicto Murillo (PAN) | 19 | 3 | - |
| Juan A. Torres (PAN) | 29 | 4 | 8 |
| Jacob Matlala (SA) | - | 5 | 12 |
| Robinson Cuesta (PAN) | 20 | 6 | 2 |
| Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI) | - | 8 | - |
| **Michael Carbajal (USA)** | - | - | C |
| Boy Lucas (PHIL) | - | - | 4 |
| Azadin Anhar (INDO) | - | - | 6 |
| Manny Melchor (PHIL) | - | - | 9 |
| Salvador Fanni (ITA) | - | - | 10 |

| **STRAWWEIGHT** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Ricardo Lopez (MEX)** | C | - | - |
| Kyung Yung Lee (KOR) | 1 | - | - |
| Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP) | 2 | 3 | - |
| Rocky Lim (JAP) | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Ala Villamor (PHIL) | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| Chana Porpaoin (THAI) | 5 | 2 | - |
| Bong Jun Kim (KOR) | 6 | 1 | - |
| Alfredo Xeque (MEX) | 7 | - | 5 |
| Danny Nunez (DR) | 8 | 11 | - |
| Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL) | 9 | 7 | - |
| Sung Woo Lee (KOR) | 10 | 4 | - |
| **Hi Yong Choi (KOR)** | - | C | - |
| Carlos Murillo (PAN) | 15 | 6 | 4 |
| Carlos Rodriguez (VEN) | 26 | 8 | 7 |
| Andy Tabanas (PHIL) | 13 | 10 | 9 |
| **Far-Lan Lookmingkwan (THAI)** | - | - | C |
| Felix Naranjo (COL) | 28 | - | 1 |
| Said Iskandar (INDO) | 20 | - | 6 |
| Abdi Pohan (INDO) | - | - | 8 |
| Husni Ray (INDO) | - | - | 10 |

## Superfans

*(Continued from page 65)*

favorite.

"I know Sharmba's destined for success. I'm serious. Sharmba has a pretty face, and not many can get to it; he is the best defensive fighter around. I really think he'll be the lightweight champion of the world. I tell everybody he's going to be up there. I even tell people when I'm shopping at the Safeway."

As a grandmother, and not a rock-starved teenager, Arlene is careful to keep her interest in perspective.

"I'm just a fan, a real good fan," she says. "I don't hang out with him. He's 20 years old and I'm 51, you know."

*Betty Klein, 40, lives in Bismarck, North Dakota. She is a planning supervisor in the business unit of the Melrose Company, which makes parts for farm equipment. Klein is the mother of an eight-year-old daughter, and founder and president of the Virgil Hill Fan Club.*

"I used to watch the Gillette fights on Friday nights with my grandfather," Betty recalls. "I was a big fan of Joe Frazier and Sonny Liston. I didn't really follow Virgil until after the Olympics. [Hill won a silver medal in 1984.] Once he came back to North Dakota, that's when I started."

Handsome, well-spoken, and friendly, Hill instantly attracted fans from across the state. Klein soon found that her devotion was steamrolling.

"It built up," says Betty, whose husband is also a boxing fan. "We started following his matches on TV, not only in Bismarck, but elsewhere. I would tape all of his fights. I built up a library.

"First and foremost, Virgil was pretty much raised in North Dakota. He's a great ambassador for the state, always telling people that he's from here. He's so down to earth. Even though he's achieved a lot, with the medal and everything, it's like talking to the guy next door. It hasn't gotten to his head like with some of the other guys."

Betty cheered and screamed in her living room as Hill recorded victory after victory. In September 1987, the unbeaten Olympian knocked out Leslie Stewart in the fourth round to win the WBA belt. Two victories later, Betty could no longer contain herself. From that point on, she attended all of Hill's matches in North Dakota, and, whenever she could, those fought out-of-state.

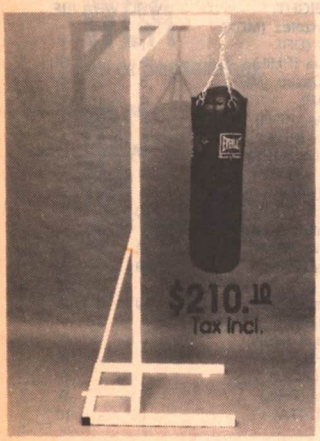
"I couldn't stand it anymore," she explains. "I told Tom that I had to be there from then on."

Betty was there when Hill defended against Willie Featherstone, Bobby Czyz, Joe Lasisi, and James Kinchen. It was in October 1989, after Hill's first-round kayo of Kinchen, that she decided to start the fan club.

"I saw his momentum grow, and I also saw that he had a large following," she says. "I started talking to my friends about starting a club. We kicked around the idea. Finally, we figured there's a fan club for everything else, why not a boxer?"

The fan club quickly grew from the original eight members to more than 120. Members hail from North Dakota, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, Texas, Iowa, Montana, and points east, west, north, and south. Among the registry are doctors, students, and politicians, including former


HEAVY BAG STAND

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Bismarck mayor Marlan Hakenson. Like any club, there is a president—Betty, naturally—and officers. For $15, members receive a Virgil Hill button and an autographed 8x10 photo. The club donates proceeds from dues and other moneymaking ventures to a needy cause of Hill's choice.

"It's really enjoyable," says Betty. "It does get hectic when we're preparing for a fight. We always have a booth set up. It's really rewarding, though. You get to meet all these people who basically love Virgil."

As president, Betty has also become a clearing house for some of Hill's mail. In one case, the post office delivered to her a letter simply addressed "Virgil Hill, WBA Light Heavyweight Champion, Bismarck, N. Dakota." As it turned out, the letter was from Germany and had been written two years earlier.

Soon after receiving that letter, Betty and several core members of the club traveled to Las Vegas and watched Thomas Hearns capture Hill's title by 12-round decision.

"We watched the fight through binoculars," Betty recalls. "The fight was very frustrating for me—as well as for Virgil. We were cheering for Virgil right up to the end, although from the mid-to-later rounds we had a [bad] feeling."

Hill is now a comebacking former champion. But like a true fan, Betty has remained loyal. As long as he doesn't quit, she won't, either.

*Jerry and Janey Julian live in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He's 53, she's 38. Jerry works at candy maker M&M/MARS, Janey in the accounts payable department at Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey. They were married on November 12, 1983, in Las Vegas, two days after Roberto Duran lost on points to middleweight champion Marvin Hagler.*

"I've followed Duran ever since 1971-72," says Jerry. "Every time I'd see him fight, it excited me."

When Jerry met Janey in February 1975, he was already a rabid Duran fan. Janey didn't know anything about boxing, let alone Duran.

"I remember saying to him, 'Let's go out Saturday night,' and he said, 'No way, Roberto Duran is on,' " recalls Janey. "He told me I had to watch this guy. I did, and I couldn't believe it. He was like an animal in the ring. There was so much magnetism."

Watching Duran on television was not enough. When Jerry heard that Duran was training for the first Sugar Ray Leonard fight at Grossinger's in the Catskills, he decided he wanted to shake the "Hands of Stone."

"Now Jerry is saying we've got to meet him," says Janey. "So I said, 'Let's go.' We went up the next Saturday. [Duran] didn't come that day. We ended up leaving, and when we did, we had transmission trouble. We were hung up for about six, seven hours."

"But the following weekend we went up there again," continues Jerry, whose sister is also a big fan of Duran. "He showed up, and we watched him train. Nothing really significant happened that day, although we were all excited. We ended up going up two or three more times. After about the third time, he got to know us. He'd look at us and wink. The he invited us back to his room to meet his wife. I couldn't believe it."

"Jerry was so excited," adds Janey. "He kept telling me, 'All I wanted to do was shake his hand.' "

The friendship flourished. Following Duran's win over Leonard, Janey and Jerry were invited to a victory party at Victor's Cafe in New York City.

"After the fight, Roberto was on top of the world," says Janey. "At Victor's, they were having all kinds of parties for him. And Roberto, he's treating Jerry like a brother. He knew Jerry was his number-one fan."

"A lot of people think he's mean and nasty," says Jerry. "But there's another whole side to him. He has a really great sense of humor. Most people don't know that."

Janey and Jerry would subsequently play softball with Duran in Central Park and meet his celebrity friends, like Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, and Rodney Dangerfield. What they enjoyed most, however, was Duran's ring glory. The fights that stand out in their mind: Duran's June 1983 knockout of Davey Moore at Madison Square Garden ("God Almighty, what a fight," says Jerry), and the loss to Hagler. After the Hagler bout, the couple decided to get married.

"I said to Janey, 'While we're here, let's look into getting married,' " recalls Jerry. "It was easy, so we did it!"

If only Duran had been there to give away the bride. ■

***Dan Hirshberg is the sports editor of* The Star-Gazette *in Hackettstown, New Jersey, and a freelance boxing writer.***


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**What was Rocky Marciano's professional record?**
1) 49-0
2) 27-4
3) 87-0
4) 56-9

**The movie based on the life of Jake LaMotta is:**
1) Somebody Up There Likes Me
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3) Raging Bull
4) The Great White Hope

**Which city hosted the Mike Tyson vs. Buster Douglas fight?**
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4) London

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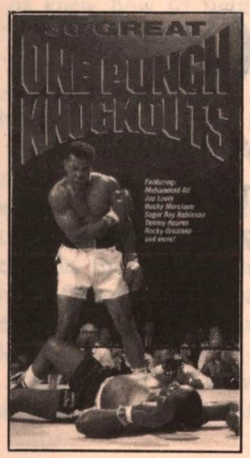


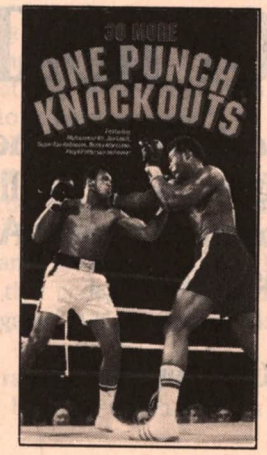


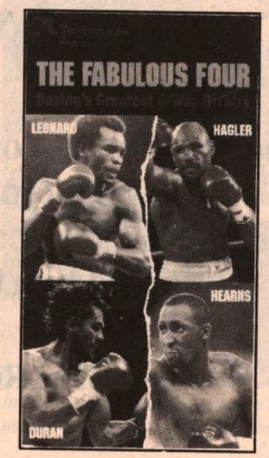


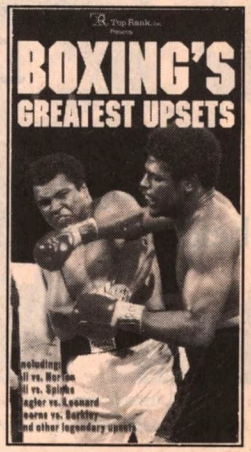


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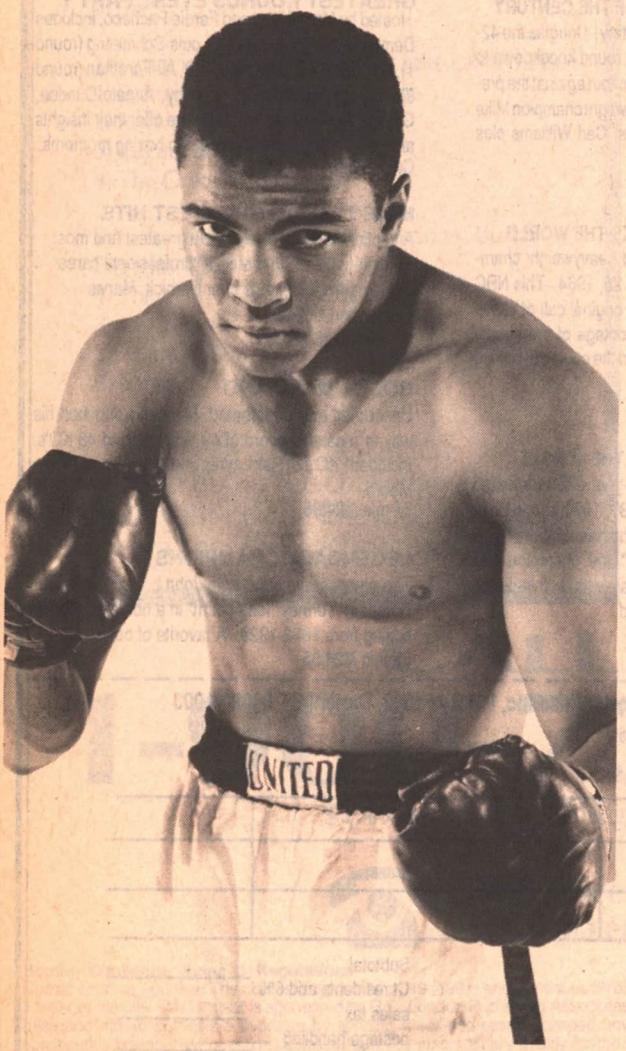
# BONUS BOY OF BOXING

**Cassius Clay, signed to a bonus contract by businessmen who were making their first effort as fight managers, said, "I will win the title before I reach 21." However, his poor showing against Alonzo Johnson caused him to lose face**

**From The Ring, October 1961**




*Boxing has never encountered anyone quite like 1960 Olympic gold medalist Cassius Clay. If the teenager can fight as well as he talks, he'll win the heavyweight title.*

**By Lew Eskin**

Since boxing became part of the Olympic Games in 1904, five boxers who gained Olympic championships have won world championships as professionals—Frankie Genaro, Fidel LaBarba, and Pascual Perez among the flyweights, Jackie Fields among the welterweights, and Floyd Patterson, the present heavyweight champion.

The "wee ones" competed as flyweights in the international games, while Fields won the featherweight title and Patterson the middleweight crown.

Only one other Olympic champion ever even gained a shot at a world championship. That boxer, of course, was Pete Rademacher, who won the heavyweight title in 1956 in Melbourne and who in his first professional bout clashed with Floyd Patterson. After having Floyd on the floor, Pete was knocked out in the sixth round.

Out of last year's games in Rome there are two young men who have made rapid strides since turning pro. Both are competing as heavyweights. Francisco DePiccoli of Italy, who won the Olympic heavyweight title, has run off a string of nine straight wins, seven of them by knockouts, since he made his debut last December, and Cassius Clay of Louisville, Kentucky, who gained the light heavyweight title in Rome, also has a clean slate.

Cassius, who made his pro debut in his hometown last October, has moved up faster than has DePiccoli. In Clay's most recent bout, he scored a triumph over experienced Alonzo Johnson in his national TV debut. It was also his eighth straight victory, with five of these coming via the knockout route.

Clay, who is 19, has boasted that he will win the heavyweight title before his 21st birthday. While that is a difficult goal, his background gives him a good chance to achieve his goal. As an amateur, he won top honors in every tournament he entered and compiled a record of more than 100 wins against a mere eight losses, with most of those defeats coming during his first year of boxing.

It was an odd accident that caused him to turn to boxing. When he was 12 years old, he attended a basketball game at Columbia Hall in Louisville. When he left the place, he discovered that his bicycle had been stolen. He asked where he could find a policeman and was told that there was one in the gym.

Going downstairs, he found Joe Martin, the boxing director of the Police Boys Club, conducting a class. He tearfully told Joe of his stolen bike and what he would do to the guy who took it.

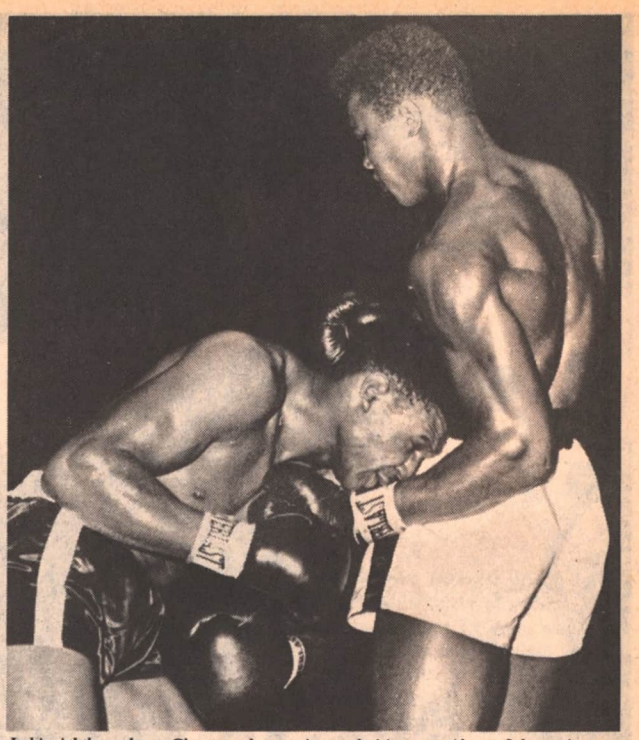
Martin called in a report on the theft, then asked Clay if he knew how to fight.

"No," said Cassius, brushing away a tear.

"Well, you ought to come around here and learn so that you can take care of that guy if you find him," advised Martin. "Learn how to protect yourself."

Cassius did come back, and it was Martin who turned him into one of the top amateur boxers of recent years. Cassius last year won both the National A.A.U. and Golden Gloves championships. He boxed as a light heavyweight in the AAU tourney and a heavyweight in the Golden Gloves, due to the fact that under AAU rules, the weight limit is 178 pounds against 175 in the Golden Gloves.

A strapping 6'2" lad with a rapier-like left jab, Cassius scaled 186 pounds for his first bout, in which he won a



*In his eighth pro bout, Clay scored a unanimous decision over Alonzo Johnson in a nationally televised battle from Pittsburgh. The brash heavyweight was unimpressive.*

# THE RING RATINGS, *October 1961*

*Davey Moore*

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Floyd Patterson**, Rockville Centre, NY

1. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Henry Cooper**, England
3. **Eddie Machen**, Portland, OR
4. **Alejandro Lavorante**, Argentina
5. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
6. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada
7. **George Chuvalo**, Canada
8. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
9. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX
10. **Tom McNeeley**, Arlington, MA

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
3. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
4. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
5. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
7. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
8. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL
9. **Allan Harmon**, Jamaica
10. **Lennart Risberg**, Sweden

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Terry Downes**, England

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Paul Pender**, Brookline, MA
3. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
4. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba
5. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
6. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
7. **Yama Bahama**, Bimini
8. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
9. **Hank Casey**, Richmond, CA
10. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA

## WELTERWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY

1. **Benny Paret**, Cuba
2. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
3. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
4. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
5. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
6. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
7. **Ted Wright**, Detroit, MI
8. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
9. **Gaspar Ortega**, Mexico
10. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Joe Brown**, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Davey Charnley**, England
2. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
3. **Doug Vaillant**, Cuba
4. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
5. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
6. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
7. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
8. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Jackie Donnelly**, Buffalo, NY
10. **Paolo Rosi**, Italy

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Davey Moore**, Springfield, OH

1. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
2. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
3. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
4. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
5. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
6. **Juan Ramirez**, Mexico
7. **Jose Luis Cruz**, Mexico
8. **Kazuo Takayama**, Japan
9. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Terry Spinks**, England

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Eder Jofre**, Brazil

1. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
2. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
3. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
4. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
5. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
6. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
7. **Edmundo Esparza**, Mexico
8. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
9. **Ignacio Pina**, Mexico
10. **Enrique Hitchman**, Cuba

## FLYWEIGHTS

*World Champ:* **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand

1. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
2. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
3. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
4. **Mitsunori Seki**, Japan
5. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
6. **Hiram Baccalao**, Cuba
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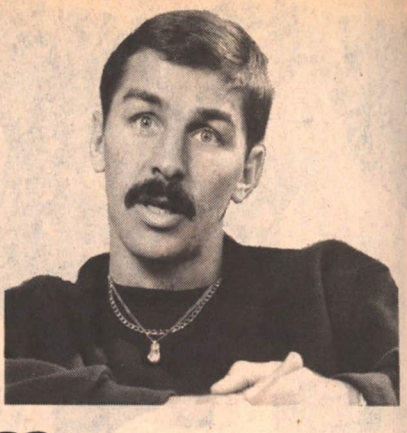
# Looking Ahead



*Mitchell: Pondering retirement*

By Steve Farhood

## IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

IBF junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell's title-winning victory over Tony Lopez seemed to be the start of a second career. As a long-reigning WBA champion, Mitchell was not allowed to defend in his native South Africa; his only bouts at home were non-title fights. But the IBF sanctions championship matches in South Africa, and boxing insiders figured he'd relish the opportunity to fight there.

As it's turning out, the Lopez fight may have been a farewell.

"At this point, it's somewhat questionable whether he'll fight again," Cedric Kushner, Mitchell's promoter, told *The Ring*. "He feels he's gone where he wants to go, and he doesn't want to take one fight too many. But because he's looked after himself as well as he has, and because he hasn't abused his body, at age 30 there's no reason he can't have a few more fights."

Kushner told us that if Mitchell decides to continue, he'll defend against number-one contender John-John Molina. *Boxing News,* however, quoted Rodney Berman, the champion's business manager, as saying, "Only a fight with Jeff Fenech or Azumah Nelson would keep Mitchell in the ring."

As of this writing, Mitchell had not yet vacated. If he does, it is anticipated that Molina and Colombia's number-two rated Fernando Caicedo will square off for the title.

## LISTEN UP

The word from Mexico is that **Julio Cesar Chavez'** next 140-pound title defense, vs. top-rated **Angel Hernandez**, will be his last. Upon moving up, Chavez will be given an instant try at one of the welterweight titles. It now looks as if the Mexican's jump may coincide with undisputed lightweight king **Pernell Whitaker's** rise to junior welterweight. That would all but erase two of boxing's best potential matchups, Whitaker-**Jeff Fenech** and Chavez-Whitaker . . . In February, ABC is hoping to run three boxing shows. One possibility is a WBC super bantamweight title fight between **Daniel Zaragoza** and **Tracy Patterson** . . . In November, IBF light heavyweight champion **Prince Charles Williams** broke his left hand while sparring, forcing a postponement of his December defense against **Frank Tate**. Look for Williams and Tate to meet in '92.

## MOVING DOWN

After losing their titles, fighters often move up in weight. An exception is former WBC bantamweight champion Greg Richardson, who was dethroned by Joichiro Tatsuyoshi in September. A couple of days after the fight, Richardson's manager, Randy Goldich, traveled to the annual WBC convention in Bangkok and asked the ratings committee to consider Richardson at junior bantamweight. The committee complied, and, according to Goldich, at the personal request of WBC President Jose Sulaiman, Richardson was listed third.

"Greg weighed 116 for the fight in Japan, and he had breakfast before the weigh-in," Goldich explained. "Why give these guys an advantage? By the time they get in the ring, they're 124, 125, and we're still 116."

In Bangkok, Goldich spoke with Alan Kim, the manager and promoter of WBC 115-pound champion Sung Kil Moon. He is hopeful of securing a title try in the near future. ■

*Goldich & Richardson: Trying for another title*

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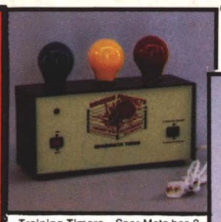
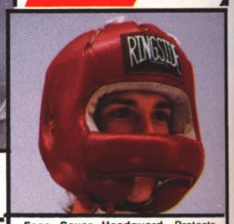
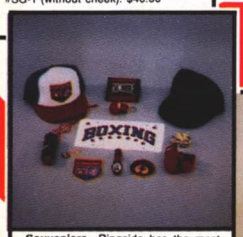


**Training Timers**—Spar-Mate has 2 & 3 min. work cycle, 1 min. rest, 30 sec. end of round. #SM $115.00. Personal Spar-Mate, 3 min./1 min. cycle. #PSM $59.00.



**Face Saver Headguard**—Protects nose, jaw and chin. Excellent fit and visibility. Lightweight frame. Perfect for boxer with bad nose or cut. #FSH. $90.00

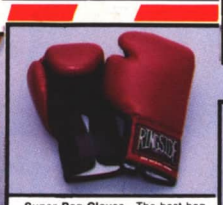


**Souveniers**—Ringside has the most complete line of boxing novelties and gifts available anywhere! Call for information.

**Competition Gloves**—USA/ABF approved. Available in solid red or blue and red or blue with white knuckle surface. All leather #SGA (Red or Blue with White Knuckle) 10 oz., 12 oz. #SGS (Solid Red or Blue) 10 oz., $110.00; 12 oz. $115.00

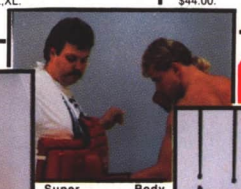
**Boxing Shoe**—Super tall - 14", red, blue, black & white. #LBS $42.00, sizes 6-13. Training shoe. Saves your competition shoes. #TBS, sizes 4-13, $32.00.

**No Foul Protector**—Used by amateurs and pros. #RPNF-1 $44.00, new Mexican style #RPNF-2 $36.00. S,M,L,XL.



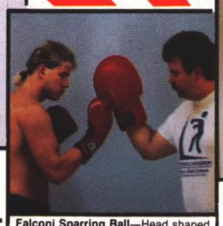
**Super Bag Gloves**—The best bag glove in the world! 12 oz. weight. Hook & Loop closure for easy on and off. Excellent wrist support. #SBG-M $39.00, #SBG-L $40.00, #SBG-XL $44.00.

**Mouthpieces**—Black Beauty form fits to each tooth. #BBMP $4.25, 801 mouthpiece just boil and bite, #801 80c, 799 mouthpiece protects top and bottom teeth, #799 $1.80.

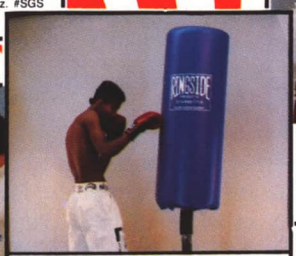


**Super Body Protector**—Excellent Protection - wrap around design. #SBP $42.00. Heavy Hitter Pad - works with body protector. #SBP-1 (use with SBP) $17.00.

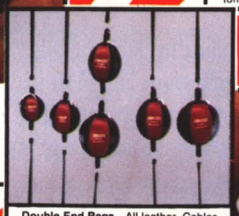
**Power Bag Gloves**—Weight system adjusts the weight of gloves up to 3½ pounds. All leather construction. Hook & loop closure. Great Cardiovascular training. #PBG $44.00.



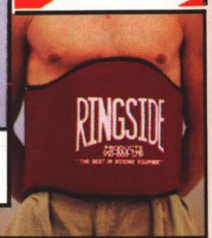
**Falconi Sparring Ball**—Head shaped target is perfect for hooks, uppercuts, or straight punches. Lightweight, easy on coaches. Great when used with one coachspar mitt. #FSB $46.00



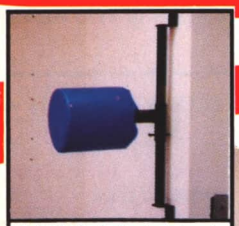
**Free Standing Heavy Bag**—Realistic action and simplest set-up all in one bag. Use this bag anywhere! Nothing to hang - no holes to drill. Just fill base with sand and work out. Spring return system keeps up the action. #FSHB $249.00. Plus $15.00 Shipping.



**Double End Bags**—All leather. Cables included. Reg. size #DEB, small #DEB-1, Peanut #DEB-2, Mini Pro #DEB-3 $36.00, Filled #FDEB $44.00, Double Double End #DDEB $70.00.



**Rib Protector**—Great for sparring with sore ribs. Unique design provides great protection. #BRP $18.00.



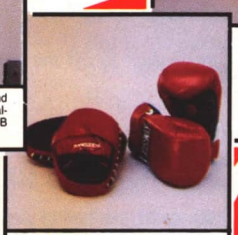
**Wall Ball**—Great for learning hooks and uppercuts. Uses wall space that usually goes to waste. All steel frame. #WLB $110.00.

**Handwraps**—Extra long (120") hook & loop closure. Red #HW $4.25. Mexican Style (180") slightly elastic, gold, #MHW $4.25. Junior (120") shorter for smaller hands, #JRHW $3.75.

**Exact Target Bag**—The most realistic bag ever made! Head has perfect target areas for hooks and uppercuts. Almost like sparring with a real person. Available filled only. Must be prepaid. #ET $139.00. Plus $15.00 Shipping.

**Sparring Gloves**—The best. Three styles to choose from. #RP-14 oz., #RP-16 oz., #RP-18 oz., Elastic wrist for easy on and off, #RP-14E, #RP-16E, #RP-18E. Sleek new Mexican style, #RP-14M. #RP-16M.

**Cobra Reflex Bag**—Super fast spring for hand speed, stability. #CRB (filled) $90.00, #CRBU (unfilled) $75.00. Professional model is heavy duty. #CRB-1 (filled) $110.00, #CRBU-1 (unfilled) $90.00.



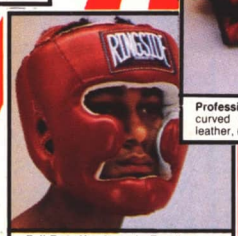
**Punch Mitts**—Great for learning offense. #PM $45.00. Coachspar Mitts—Teaches offense and defense. All leather. #CS $54.00.

**Super Gauze**—Tight weave 10 ydx2" gauze. #CG-1 (90 rolls) $45.00, Trainers tape - 1"x10 yd. #TT (roll) $1.00, #TTB (15 rolls) $12.00.

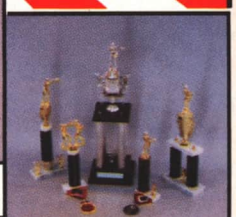
**Professional Bag Gloves**—Special curved design for better fit. All leather, #BGM, BGL, BGXL $24.00.

**Custom Clothes**—If you can think it up, we can make it! Trunks, Jerseys, Robes, Corner Jackets and more. Satin & velour. Call for more information.

**Sculptures**—Museum quality pieces. Lifelike detail. #LBSC-1 (Ali), #LBSC-2 (Marciano), #LBSC-3 (Louis), #LBSC-4 (Robinson) $20.00.



**Full Face Headguard**—Excellent protection for entire head. Great visibility. Hook & loop adjustment for the perfect fit. S,M,L,XL. #HGBC $52.00.



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